



THE TIMES Tomorrow

A passage through India: Trevor Fishlock, The Times correspondent in Delhi, is about to leave the country which has been his home for the past three years...

Green light for cut in base rates

The clearing banks are today expected to cut their base lending rates from 10 1/2 to 10 per cent after a signal from the Bank of England...

Seat belt law saves lives

Wearing of car seat belts, which became compulsory in February, is saving lives and substantially reducing serious road injuries...

Chicago pledge

Mr Harold Washington, elected Chicago's first black mayor by just 4 per cent of the vote, pledged to heal the racial divisions opened in the campaign...

Ulster murder

Terrorists shot dead a man believed to be in his mid-forties and connected with the Territorial Army, in an ambush in Main Street, Keady, Co. Armagh, last night.

Galtieri goes

General Leopoldo Galtieri, former President of Argentina, was taken to an undisclosed Army prison, amid growing uncertainty over his sentence and his precise legal situation.

Reuters' £36.5m

Reuters, the news and financial information agency whose ownership is in dispute, reported doubled profits of £36.5m.

Mafia slaughter

Eleven people have died, including a former lieutenant of the gangster Lucky Luciano, in a fresh outbreak of Mafia clan killings in Sicily.

Japanese 'spies'

Mr Stanislav Levchenko, the Soviet spy who defected to the United States in 1979, has named several prominent Japanese, including a Cabinet minister, whom he said, he had recruited as KGB agents.

Slim chances

Short cuts to slimming such as starch blockers and appetite suppressants are a waste of money and could be harmful, according to Which? magazine.

Cut in smoking

A survey by the Cancer Research Campaign indicates that fewer children are smoking than in recent years.

Leader page, 15 Letters: On Third World aid, from Professor Al Chubbie Ross, and Sir Colin Campbell; citizens' advice, from Mr J Davies; teaching, from Mr A. Bartoo... Obituary, page 16 Mr Desmond Bagley, Rear-Admiral B. C. Durant Building Societies: Three-page special report for borrowers and investors, pages 21-23

Table with 3 columns: Home News, Events, Overseas, Law Report, Parliament, Arts, Press, Books, Science, Business, Sport, TV & Radio, Chess, Theatre, Weather, Crossword, Diary

Arafat envoys sent to reopen peace talks with Husain

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Mr Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said in Stockholm last night that he had sent two special envoys to Amman to reopen talks with King Husain of Jordan on the Reagan peace plan for the Middle East. "We will be doing our best to continue these joint talks with the Jordanian authorities," he said...

Cunard refit to cost taxpayers £800,000

By Rupert Morris

Nearly half the cost of refitting the Cunard Countess, the cruise liner, in a Maltese shipyard will be borne by the British taxpayer. The ship, which is ferrying relatives of the Falklands dead to Montevideo on their way home, needs a £2m refit before embarking on its usual round of Caribbean cruises in July.



Mr Bernard Crisp: Wanted Britain to get order.

because it was unable to do the work in the requisite 55 days. Both Cunard and the Government have come under mounting public criticism for the fact that the work is not coming to Britain. Mr Bernard Crisp, managing director of Cunard, said he had wanted to place the order in Britain, but British Shipbuilders had been unable to do the work in less than 80 days...

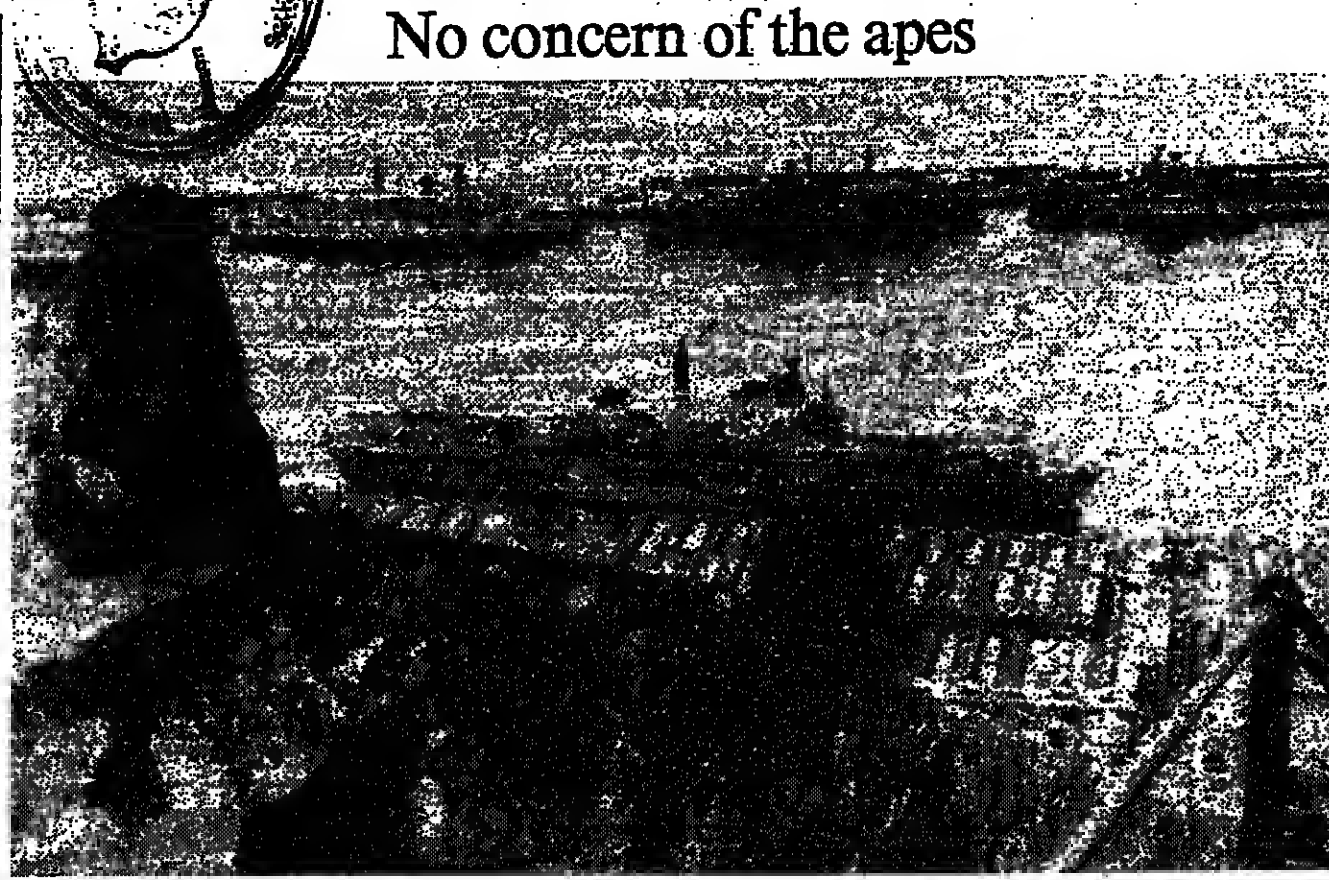
Forecast of 5% rise in exports

By Michael Prest

Britain's exports should grow more strongly than ever over the next 12 months as a result of the fall in sterling, and the certainty that the world economy will recover this year.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister for Trade Secretary, told a CBI meeting yesterday that the volume of British exports should jump by 5 per cent in the year to June 1984. "The United Kingdom now appears to be better placed for export-led growth than for a long time," he said.

It is now expected that the industrial countries' economies will grow - the total value of all goods and services and trade - will grow on average this year by 2 per cent, compared with virtual stagnation or worse in preceding years. The crucial element in these forecasts is the US. Economists anticipate a growth rate of up to 4 per cent, accompanied by modest inflation and continuing firm control of the money supply.



Two of Gibraltar's famous apes sit impressively as ships of the 'Falklands fleet' lie alongside in the harbour.

Spanish warships watch the Fleet sail into Gibraltar

From Richard Wigg, Gibraltar

A British fleet, led by the aircraft carrier Invincible, yesterday began its visit here as scheduled, ignoring the Spanish Government's loudly-expressed "displeasure". The arrival of the British ships was observed by three ships of the Spanish Navy, which took up position inside their national waters. The Spanish ships, two frigates and a destroyer, had sailed from Cadix. The British force of 12 ships is participating in an Atlantic exercise, called Spring Train.

Walesa set free after questioning

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Polish police yesterday picked up Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of the banned Solidarity trade union, to question him about his weekend talks with fugitive underground leaders. After five hours of interrogation, the police allowed Mr Walesa to return home. According to eyewitnesses, two uniformed policemen and an officer in plain clothes took Mr Walesa away from his apartment in Gdansk, threatening to use force if necessary...

Sierra campaign in trouble

By Clifford Webb

Ford's controversial discount campaign for dealers, to boost its new Sierra car to the top as Britain's best-selling car, has run into trouble. Rivals say that it has dashed all hopes of ending the bitter cut-price war of the last two years and appears to have backfired on Ford because of its short-lived success. Confidential figures circulating in the industry last night show that in the first 10 days of April, the Sierra fell from outright leadership with 11.5 per cent, to fifth place with only 3 per cent. It has been ousted by Vauxhall's Cavalier followed by BL's Metro, Ford's own Escort and BL's new Maestro which has moved from sixth to fourth place.

Whites-only premiere for 'Gandhi' in South Africa

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Sir Richard Attenborough will attend a whites-only premiere of his award-winning film Gandhi in Johannesburg next Thursday, apparently because the charity for whose benefit it is being staged failed to apply in time for a special permit allowing the film to be shown to a multi-racial audience. The April 21 premiere here is being held to raise money for the Cancer Association of South Africa. Sterkinekor, the cinema chain showing Gandhi, said yesterday that it had not been asked by the charity to apply for a multi-racial permit, and oow it was too late to do so as all the seats had been sold to whites. On April 22 Sir Richard will get a chance to attend a multi-racial showing of Gandhi at an old cinema in the Fordsburg suburb of Johannesburg which was recently declared an Indian area. This is to raise money for the Gandhi Centenary Council which wants to restore Tolstoy Farm, where Gandhi lived and worked for a time.

Slip the election leash, demand Opposition parties

By Julian Haviland and Phillip Webster

The Opposition parties responded yesterday to the growing belief at Westminster in an early general election, the Alliance leadership by saying they were eager for a fight, and Labour MPs by approving, in a mood of marked amity, their campaign document, The New Hope for Britain.

Mr Roy Jenkins, leader of the Social Democrats, speaking last night at Staines, Middlesex, urged Mrs Margaret Thatcher to stop "dithering". The Parliament had run as much of its course as it had the stamina to do, he said, and every month the Government continued in office was worse news for the unemployed.

"Equally, the threat of a Labour government, however remote the prospect, creates uncertainty and weakening confidence. Let us get on with it and put these great matters of the proof."

said, and knew that only by going to the country in June could she claim even limited success for her economic policy because inflation would be rising by the end of the year. Earlier, after a meeting between Mr Jenkins, Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, and their advisers, a joint statement said that the Alliance parties had more than 500 candidates in the field. The sooner the country could vote for a new beginning the better.

Mrs Shirley Williams, the SDP president, speaking in Wandsworth, south London, said that many active Conservatives and many Labour MPs were afraid of their own party's winning. Conservatives were frightened of a move to the right. Labour MPs, including many of their leaders, had no stomach for their programme, and did not believe it could or should be implemented. Labour MPs reacted to the

election mood by attempting to sink their acknowledged policy differences at a meeting of the parliamentary party called to consider the campaign document. Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, promised them that the eventual manifesto would reflect what was in the document, so painstakingly drafted to meet the interests of left and right. During the two-and-a-half hour meeting there was criticism of the leadership for failing to get its message across, but none of the bitterness that has characterized such meetings during the past two years.

Mr Wedgwood Benn said that the party should be pressing for an early election. It was prepared for one, it wanted the Government out. Labour had to be the party that overcame the demonization caused by the Tories. "We have to reassure the people that

we can protect their vital interests," he said. Mr Foot, who welcomed the tone of yesterday's meeting, said that internal had contributed to the public's doubts about Labour, but they were being overcome. He accepted that there were "genuine intellectual queries" on the campaign document; he emphasized that sentences should not be picked out of the passage on nuclear disarmament, but that it should be read in full. Mr Foot's pledge on the manifesto was welcomed by left-wing MPs.

Mrs Thatcher has suffered a drop during the past month of 3 per cent, in the number of voters who are satisfied with her as Prime Minister, according to a Gallup poll published in The Daily Telegraph today. (The Press Association reports) TUC campaign, page 2



His Election Fears - stop taking the media immediately

Advertisement for Berkeley House, 15,600 sq ft Air conditioned OFFICES with 30 car spaces. Includes contact info for Weatherall Green & Smith and olive lewis partners.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

'Pillions for hire' trips go-ahead

Britain's first private hire motor cycles with "chauffeurs" were licensed yesterday when Bradford council permitted two unemployed brothers to operate package holidays on the pillion.

After consulting the council's lawyers, the public services subcommittee agreed that the 500cc machines of Mr John Berry, aged 27, and Mr Gary Berry, his brother, aged 24, could be licensed.

Field trial for lawnmowers

The argument between Qualcast and Flynn is to be tested today at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, before officials from the Independent Television Companies Association (ITCA). Qualcast has been running a television advertisement purporting to show how much more efficient its conventional Concorde lawnmower is than the hovering Flynn.

Police charged with assault

Seven police constables of the special patrol group, including a young woman, appeared at Wells Street magistrates' court central London yesterday, charged with assaulting black youths during the Britnrx riots in 1981 and conspiring to cover up the alleged attacks.

Verdict on housewives

A verdict of unlawful killing of a person or persons unknown was returned by the jury at the inquest in Aldershot yesterday into the deaths of two housewives.

Changes at trust

Lord Trust Caldecote is to succeed Eric Drake, who retires on May 1, as chairman of the Mary Rose Trust. Captain Charles Douds, the Navy director of appointments and training at the Ministry of Defence will become the trusts chief executive officer.

CORRECTION

Mrs Shirley Williams was joined by Mr Richard Holme, chairman of the Liberal Party's publicity group, not by Mr Richard Wainwright in the press conference reported on April 12 under the heading "Foul play by Williams".

TUC steps up campaign to fight Thatcher on jobless

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade union leaders yesterday stepped up their preparation for a general election and reaffirmed that the keynote of Labour's political challenge to Mrs Margaret Thatcher would be on unemployment and the TUC's "battle for jobs".

Representatives of 30 unions attending a fund-raising conference at Transport House in London were told that Labour's "council of war" at Woodstock College, Surrey, in three weeks' time would concentrate on the aims, organization and financial backing for Mr Michael Foot's effort to get into Downing Street.

Mr David Bassett, chairman of Trade Unions for Labour Victory, (TULV), which also met yesterday, said: "We are making sure we are organized and ready. We are gearing up." He added: "Unemployment will be the major issue of the election. Central to that will be the TUC's battle for jobs."

The "summit" bringing together the unions, the Shadow Cabinet and Labour's national executive will be held on May 5 and 6 at the training centre of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, of which Mr Bassett is general secretary.

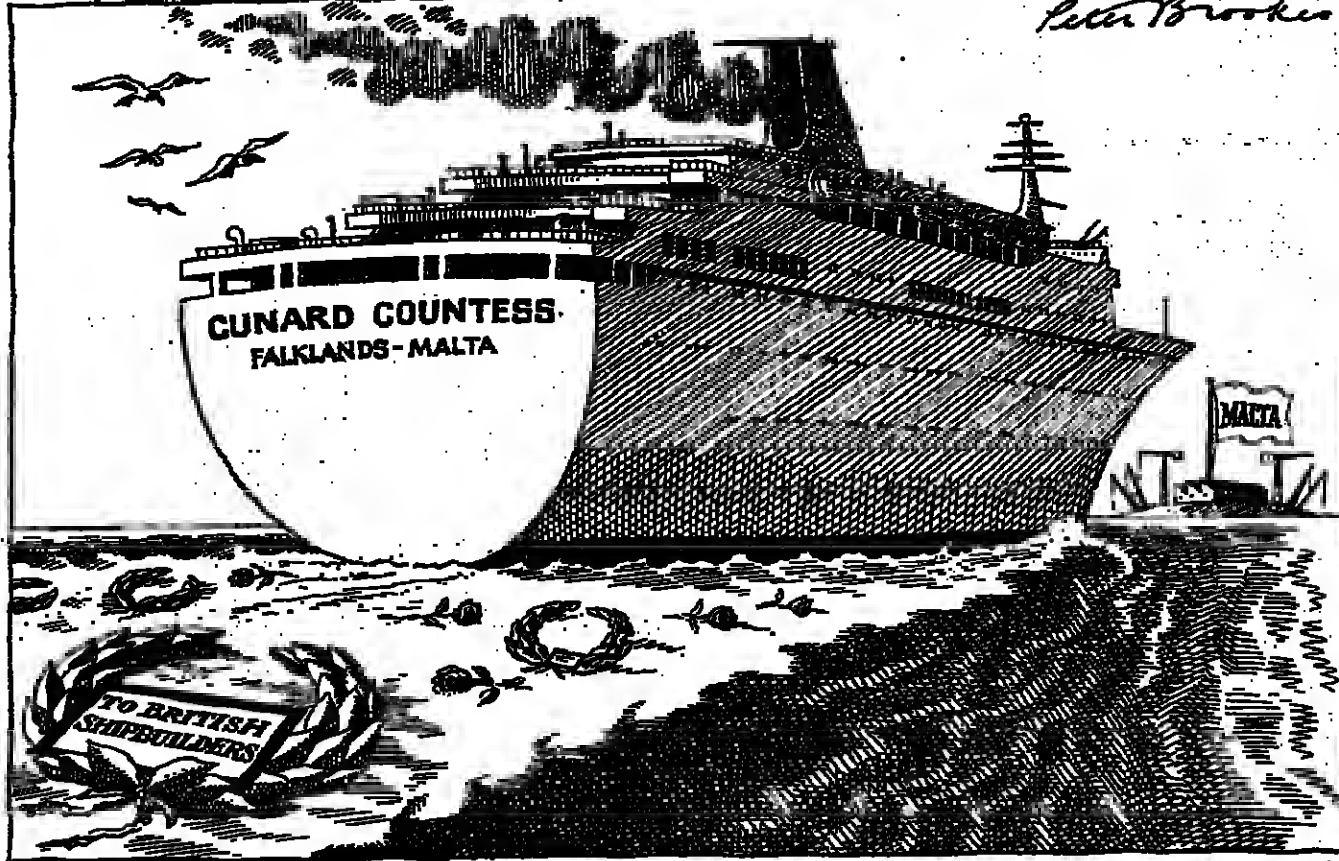
Nine years for 'master burglar' Billy Brazil, aged 35, a professional burglar, was jailed for a total of nine years by Winchester Crown Court yesterday for a series of burglaries at wealthy homes in the South.

Justice Pigot, QC, told him: "You are a master burglar and, indeed, the most accomplished professional burglar I have ever encountered."

Brazil was one of 10 people sentenced for the part they played in a series of burglaries in which antiques, paintings, and silverware were stolen and disposed of.

He was found guilty of nine cases of burglary and on charges of conspiring to commit burglary and conspiring to handle stolen goods. The judge said that unrecovered property from the nine burglaries offences was worth more than £77,000.

Justice Pigot ordered Brazil to pay £11,500 towards his legal aid and made a criminal bankruptcy order against him.



Thousands in Dublin tax march

From Our Correspondent

Thousands of workers in the Republic of Ireland staged a half-day strike yesterday afternoon as marches were held in more than 20 cities and towns in support of tax reforms.

The police said that 20,000 people took part in the largest march through the centre of Dublin. Unions leaders claimed the future was brighter, but acknowledged that it was much lower than the estimated 100,000 involved in the tax march of March, 1979.

The protests disrupted industry throughout the country, but shops, banks and public houses remained open.

The marches are intended to be the first stage of a campaign of opposition to the high levels of tax and social insurance contributions paid by workers who are taxed under the pay as you earn system.

RCN votes for separate pay fight

From Our Correspondent

The Royal College of Nursing yesterday voted unanimously to go it alone in pay rounds. Its members, meeting in Bourne-mouth, made it clear they fully support their leaders' stand that the new independent pay review body should cover only qualified staff and students.

New appeals review body ruled out

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government, in a White Paper published yesterday, has rejected MPs' proposals for an independent review body to examine alleged miscarriages of justice.

But it says that the Home Secretary will be prepared to refer more of such cases back to the Court of Appeal, which will make greater use of its powers to admit evidence and consider a retrial.

The Home Secretary will also consider appointing lawyers ad hoc to assist over whether to take action in some cases, and in all cases where the Home Secretary refuses to take further action.

The White Paper is the Government's response to a report last November by the Home Affairs Committee of MPs which argued for a new independent appeals review body to allow public concern about possible miscarriages of justice.

Abbeys to pump £100m into inner-city housing

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

The Abbey National Building Society is expecting to pump £3,000,000 into home buying this year compared with £2,500,000 last year. Sir Campbell Adamson, the chairman, announced yesterday at the society's annual general meeting.

Of that sum £750 will go towards new homes. It is believed to be the largest sum allocated by a society for new houses. The sum will also include £100m for inner-city housing, where Abbey believes it is most needed.

Sir Campbell said: "In inner-city areas, I am not yet convinced that the full implications of Abbey National's involvement in improving housing conditions has been grasped by the business world. These areas represent a large market where finance is now, perhaps for the first time, readily available."

Unions renew pressure on publishing company

From David Felton, Labour Correspondent, Dundee

The biggest non-union company in the publishing industry is again under pressure from unions trying to win recognition, but the family-run DC Thomson and Co is determined to fight to prevent them gaining a foothold.

Yesterday 400 delegates from the National Union of Journalists' conference which is being held in Dundee, and other trade unionists marched around the company's newspaper offices in Dundee as part of the drive for recognition, but the management was unmoved.

Thomson, which is run by the great-grandchildren of Mr William Thomson, a Dundee shipowner who founded the company more than 100 years ago, publishes dozens of comics and women's magazines including Dandy, Beano, Topper, Rover, Annabel and My Weekly.

The Dundee Courier, which with a circulation of more than 130,000 outside all provincial morning papers in Britain, The Weekly News and The Sunday Post, which has a claimed readership of 70 per cent of the entire population of Scotland over 15 years of age. The company made a £7m profit last year.

Phillips SALES SUCCESS advertisement featuring a gold oval snuff box and contact information for Michael Prevezer.

Advertisement for the Abbey National Building Society's inner-city housing program, detailing investment and future plans.

Advertisement for the sale of a firemark record price, including details of the items and the auctioneer.

Large advertisement for 'FREE' subscription to The Times Higher Education Supplement, including contact details and a coupon.

Science report titled 'Clear view through the living lens' by the Staff of Nature, discussing the structure of the eye lens and protein molecules.

Fashionable slimming short cuts may be harmful, magazine says

By Clive Cookson

Fashionable short cuts to slimming, such as starch blockers, appetite suppressants and high protein powders, are a waste of money and could even be harmful, the Consumers Association says today.

After testing every slimming product on the British market, the association found nothing more effective than a conventional low calorie diet.

Starch blockers, which reached Britain from the United States last year, have now been banned in America, according to the association's magazine *Which?*

They are supposed to block the enzyme which helps to digest starch, but the Consumers Association experts say they do not work and if they did the results would be "uncomfortable and unsociable".

The message on appetite suppressants is similar. Neither suppressants containing a bulking agent which swells up in the stomach nor those containing sugar really work.

Which? also advises slimmers

to avoid high protein powders to replace meals. More evidence is needed about their effectiveness and their potential health risks, it says.

However, the Consumers Association does say that low calorie versions of everyday foods and drinks can be useful and some meal-substitutes such as special chocolate-bars to be eaten with a drink, may be worth trying at the beginning of a diet.

The magazine also looks at two new diets which hit the headlines last year. The verdict on the Beverly Hills diet by Judy Marel is "Don't try it; it will make a big hole in your pocket and it could have a bad effect on your health." But *Which?* likes the F-plan diet by Audrey Eytan "because it seems balanced, healthy and easy to follow".

The report is based on a *Which?* survey of 1,000 slimmers, in addition to analysis by Consumers Association nutritionists and medical experts. Only 56 of the 384 people who

had tried either type of appetite suppressant found it any help at all.

Meal substitutes received more support: 151 out of 475 panel members found slimming biscuits a useful substitute for meals. However, only 107 out of 467 were helped by starch-reduced rolls.

Psychological help may be more important than specific foods. *Which?* reports that two thirds of the people who joined slimming support groups thought that they provided a useful way to lose weight.

• The average Briton consumes three times more salt than he really needs, Professor Arnold Bender, head of nutrition at Queen Elizabeth College, London, said yesterday. Excessive consumption of salt can lead to high blood pressure.

Professor Bender said that the average daily intake in Britain was 10 grammes of salt, and some salt addicts eat 30 grammes or more a day. A dose of only 100 grammes of salt can be fatal.



High price for pigeon's heroism

A rare "animal VC" awarded to a pigeon named Mercury during the Second World War sold at a Christie's auction in London yesterday for £5,000.

Mercury (also shown) won the Dickin Medal, as it was originally known, for the "most outstanding single performance" of any one pigeon on special service. She made a non-stop flight of 480 miles on July 30, 1942, carrying a secret message from a Danish resistance group in north

Denmark. Of the 100 pigeons who sold the medal, only Mercury returned to her loft.

The medal, with documentation, was bought by an agent for Mr Louis Massarella for the Royal Pigeon Racing Association.

Mercury, a blue hen, is the most famous of 31 pigeons to have been awarded the Dickin Medal. The Army Pigeon Service discovered Mercury, bred by the late Mr James Catchpole, of Ipswich.

Mr Harold Catchpole, his son, who sold the medal, recalled how the bird was recruited. He said: "The Army took two birds from each of 50 fanciers, including my father, and said it was for something special."

The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals at Woking, in Surrey, awarded the medal to Mercury in 1946.

Mr Catchpole, aged 62, said yesterday: "The price paid is far beyond my expectations."

Team from France in shop thefts

A French junior rugby team has left West Yorkshire for home in disgrace after the whole party, 16 juveniles and 10 supporters, was arrested for shoplifting.

A West Yorkshire police spokesman said that £200 of goods, mainly sportswear, was taken from three shops in Bradford.

"All of the property except one jumper was recovered. No-one will be appearing in court," he said.

The group, from Villeneuve-Avignon, had been invited by Shaw Cross Boys Club, Dewsbury, and a civic reception was given by Mr Jack Wood, the Mayor.

"They presented me with a picture of their town and a bag of prunes from the area. I would put this escape down to high spirits," Mr Wood said.

Driving ban on rugby forward

Richard Moriarty, the Welsh international rugby forward, was fined a total of £120 yesterday for driving offences and disqualified from driving for 18 months.

Moriarty, aged 25 and unemployed, of Neath Road, Plasmar, Swansea, pleaded guilty before city magistrates to a drink-driving charge, taking a car without the owner's consent, and twice driving without a licence and insurance, the second time when taking documents to a police station. He was given an absolute discharge on both insurance offences.

£370,000 award to widow

Agreed damages of £372,862 were awarded in the High Court in London yesterday to Mrs Margaret Dobbin, whose husband, an engineer, died in a helicopter crash while working in the Arabian Gulf.

Mrs Dobbin, aged 50, of Milford Hill Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, was awarded the damages, with costs, against Textron Incorporated, of Texas, manufacturers of a Bell 212 helicopter which fell into the sea off Abu Dhabi in 1978, killing her husband.

Killer drowns

A man who died after jumping into the sea at Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, during a gale on Monday, was identified yesterday as Robert Thornton Small, aged 53, who was released from prison last month after serving 12 years of a life sentence for murdering his wife and killing his three children.

Forest go-ahead

The Countryside Commission has withdrawn its objections to the Forestry Commission plan to plant a coniferous forest on 370 acres of fell land at Grassguards in Dummerdale in the Lake District national park.

Fewer young people smoke, survey finds

By a Staff Reporter

Fewer children are smoking. A survey of 20,000 pupils and college students in the North of England shows rates of regular smoking rising from 0.3 per cent of children aged 9, to 24 per cent of those aged 15 and 16.

The results, published yesterday, of the survey by the Cancer Research Campaign indicate the proportion of smokers is considerably lower than similar, though less extensive, surveys conducted a few years ago.

For example, the new results indicate that 4 per cent of boys and 2.5 per cent of girls aged 11 and 13 smoke at least once a week. A survey in 1975 indicated that 8 per cent of boys and 5 per cent of girls smoked at those ages.

Dr Anne Charlton, of Manchester, who carried out the survey for the campaign, distributed 20,000 anonymous questionnaires through primary and secondary schools and colleges of further education late last year. All pupils aged

given institutions completed the forms simultaneously and sealed them in unmarked envelopes.

The answers indicate that health warnings about smoking are being acted upon.

The survey also disclosed that the health of some young smokers is already beginning to suffer. Thirty-two per cent of children who consume six or more cigarettes a week reported frequent coughs, compared with 22 per cent of non-smokers.

Parents have a strong influence on their children's smoking habits and it seems that parental attitudes are much more important than whether parents smoke.

Seventeen per cent of children with a parent who smokes are regular smokers, compared with 10 per cent with non-smoking parents. However, nearly half the children who thought that their parents would not mind their smoking did smoke, against 8 per cent of those whose parents disapproved.

Jailed witness to appeal

A prosecution witness who was jailed for two years for contempt of court because he refused to give evidence, has been freed on bail at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, pending an appeal against the sentence. Samuel Forrest, aged 37, of 18 Newark Drive, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, was jailed for 24 months at Hamilton Sheriff Court after

he refused to give evidence four times.

He was the main prosecution witness against Alexander McFarlane, aged 41, of 6 Caplaw Place, Glasgow, who was accused of assaulting his former wife, Margaret Forrest, aged 37, of 18 Newark Drive, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, who was jailed for 24 months at Hamilton Sheriff Court after

No state aid to visit graves

By David Hewson

The Government is unlikely to agree to a request to allow Second World War widows to fly at public expense to the graves of Servicemen killed abroad in an extension of the visit to the Falklands by relatives of men killed in the South Atlantic campaign.

The Ministry of Defence last night ruled out the question of any mass despatch for such visits. "The problem is quite simply one of scale. We could not do this for the thousands of people who would be involved," a spokesman said.

There are about 64,000 widows of Servicemen killed on duty before 1967 when the Government introduced a policy of providing facility visits to the graves of men who died after that date.

Most were widowed in the Second World War, and lost

husbands in northern Europe. The geographical spread of graves covered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which cares for graves from both world wars, extends from Hongkong, throughout Asia, the Middle and Near East, and Europe, to Canada and the West Indies.

The largest number of graves tended by the commission is in France, where 600,000 servicemen are buried, 500,000 from the First World War. The second largest group, 200,000, is in Belgium.

Mr Alastair Laing, the deputy director-general of the commission, said yesterday: "Naturally we welcome visitors to any of these places and will provide any information we can on them. What we cannot do is pay for relatives to visit the graves. These graves virtually

span the globe. They are in 140 different countries and territories."

If the decision to offer free travel to service graves to a relative and companion were extended to families of those killed in 1967, as Lady Jeger has suggested in a House of Lords question, the main beneficiaries would be the widows of men killed in the Second World War. But the decision would also affect relatives of the victims of campaigns in Palestine, Borneo, Kenya, Aden, Cyprus and Malaya, and a number of more minor engagements.

Some widows of men killed in the First World War would also be offered the chance to visit the graves, though it is thought that few would be able to stand the journey.

Leading article, page 15

Napley onslaught on police searches

Sir David Napley, the former president of the Law Society, criticized yesterday what he described as the "real evil" of police searches in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

Addressing the council of the Newspaper Society, he said that many aspects of the Bill were misguided and that he doubted whether the proposed legislation would make "the slightest difference to the general incidence of crime."

Sir David said: "The real evil of the changes in the Bill is that of police searches and the

manner in which they are carried out.

"Anyone who has had any experience of a police search can be sure that they do not restrict their investigation to the material which is directly germane to the subject of their inquiries."

"They take the opportunity of pursuing a roving commission over all information confidential or otherwise on which they can lay their hands. This is objectionable."

• Sir Cyril Phillips, chairman of the Police Complaints

Board, said yesterday that another parliamentary Bill would be needed to get anything like the balance of power between police and public that had been sought by the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure, of which he had been chairman (Peter Evans writes).

Tape-recording of evidence and an independent prosecuting system were proposed by the commission to balance extra powers recommended for the police, but Sir Cyril said that they did not form part of the present Bill, which sought a different kind of balance.

Warning to Falklands 'settlers'

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

World-be settlers in the Falklands, tempted by offers of 100-acre plots at £1,500 each, are unlikely to be able to make a living, Mr Ted Fellows, the deputy editor of *Farmers Weekly*, says.

Hundreds of land-hungry people in Britain have been taken with the idea of buying plots either from the Falkland Islands Company or from Mr Harry Cann, a Chesterfield businessman, he says.

But after visiting the islands, Mr Fellows concludes that unimproved land can support only about one sheep to every five acres.

Topsoil and the hard clay subsoil are separated by an iron pan which would need to be broken up with deep cultivation equipment to grow root crops, he says.

Although the Armed Forces represent a substantial potential market for horticultural produce, their buyers will not commit themselves without an adequate marketing infrastructure.

The cost of providing suitable protection for crops against the wind would be prohibitive, even if markets could be found, Mr Fellows states.

"Quite apart from the lack of commercial potential offered by these diminutive plots, there remains the difficulty of coping with the harsh winter conditions, for which the Falkland Islands are famous, and with the need to be almost entirely self-sufficient."

Non-nuclear defence plan sought

By Nicholas Timmins

A call for a non-nuclear "non-provocative" defence policy for Europe was issued yesterday by a new organization called Just Defence.

The organization, formed by a group of eminent scientists, prelates and military officers, aims to provide a forum rather than a simple policy for finding a way out of what it calls the "sterile polarization" of the defence and disarmament debate, in which unilateralism is lined up against multilateralism.

It argues that Britain and Europe should adopt policies which are clearly perceived as non-aggressive by the Soviet Union, using new technologies to provide purely defensive forces in Europe, with no land-based nuclear weapons.

The threat of nuclear blackmail would be counteracted by the continuing presence of the strategic nuclear arsenals of the Soviet Union and the United States, the group argues; but the risk of nuclear war would be reduced by removing the policy of flexible response.

Founded by Mr Stan Windass, director of the Foundation for Alternatives, with Professor Frank Barnaby, the former director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the group's advisory council includes General Sir Hugh Beach, a former head of procurement for the Army, Professor Dorothy Hodgkin, president of the Pugwash conference and the Rt Rev Hugh Molefiore, Bishop of Birmingham.

Code for video trade

War declared on the 'nasties'

By Kenneth Gostling

One of the strongest measures so far taken to try to end the trade in video "nasties" was announced yesterday, with the introduction of a voluntary classification code backed up by the registration of video dealers.

Under the scheme introduced by the British Videogram Association (BVA), retailers who fail to register by next September will be forced out of business by having legitimate supplies of cassettes and discs withheld. Any member of the BVA, representing 50 member companies, who continues to supply unregistered dealers will be expelled.

The Government has expressed its preference for voluntary measures, but if they fail legislation will be introduced.

Mr Donald MacLean, chairman of the BVA, said that legislation was wanted by very few and "would be fraught with undesirable side-effects."

Mr Iain Muspratt, BVA vice-chairman, said that retailers who chose to stay outside the scheme would have "no business, no future". He agreed that the scheme constituted a restrictive trade practice, but added: "We do not expect that to be a problem."

Classification will start at once. A videogram standards council, under a chairman to be named shortly, will be formed from representatives of videogram publishers, wholesalers, retailers, and four people unconnected with the industry. Because consistency is regarded as important the categories will tally with those used for cinema films. They will be displayed in every shop and marked clearly on every cassette. That is expected to remove any confusion over titles that conceal the real content of the cassette of disc.

Mr MacLean with the new symbols: U, for all; PG, parental guidance needed; 15 or 18, passed for people aged 15 or 18 and over; Restricted 18, for sale only in shops barred to children; Uc, children's film; no certificate.

The intention, the BVA says, is to provide the public with the means of making an informed choice about programme content and to isolate the video "nasties".

Asked by a questioner who identified himself as the "video nasty correspondent" of *Video Viewer* to choose their least favourite scenes from "nasties", BVA officials refused to be drawn.

Mr Norman Abbott, chief executive of the BVA, said that he had sat on the working party established to examine a code for the industry.

"I am trying to obliterate from my memory the terrible things we were subjected to," he said. "Some of the films were stupefying."

Mr Muspratt called the material depicting muck. Most of the dealers and many parents had opted for the scheme, he said. "Categories will appear in circles, which show limitation

Luxury image for stations

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

Luxury restaurants and shopping centres will be built in London's main line stations to make them attractive social centres on continental lines, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, predicted yesterday.

As part of its general plan to bring private capital into public industry, the Government is giving maximum encouragement to bring restaurateurs, retailers, and property developers into station development to help dispel the image of British railway stations as places of "dirt, cigarette ends, and cold waiting rooms".

Already five stations, Euston, Blackfriars, Holborn, Cannon Street and London Bridge, have been developed. Another five, Liverpool Street, Broad Street, Fenchurch Street, Victoria, Waterloo and King's Cross, were in the pipeline with more ambitious ideas. Mr Howell indicated. Two more, Paddington and St Pancras, would follow.

At Waterloo, where he had an early morning walkabout among uncomplaining commuters, a choice of sites was being offered to private restaurateurs to provide a luxury restaurant of the kind that made Paris stations attract people, rather than drive them out. There were also plans for a mezzanine shopping centre over the platforms and concourse.

'Cocktail' boy in hospital

Richard McBride, aged nine, was in hospital nursing a hangover yesterday after a drinking spree with four young friends.

The boy, from The Horse-shoe, Godalming, Surrey, had consumed a "cocktail" of sherry, cooking oil, tomato ketchup, garden plant food and Carlsberg special brew. The police found him staggering about and obviously very drunk.

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Pym still backs Reagan plan for Middle East

MIDDLE EAST

If peace negotiations over the Middle East were to begin there was no practical alternative to the proposals of President Reagan as the starting point, Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, declared in the Commons. These proposals, he added, constituted an opportunity which would not recur and therefore must be seized urgently.

It is essential (he went on) that the forces of moderation, not least the PLO, carry the day. It is the Palestinians themselves who stand to lose the most if they do not. Likewise, it remains essential that all foreign forces should withdraw quickly from Lebanon and that the unacceptable settlement programme on the West Bank should be halted. Israel has a heavy responsibility in both cases.

Our own approach continues to rest on the principles set out in the Venice Declaration. We are encouraging all those working for peace to the limit of our ability and are in close touch with them. The role of the United States Government, both in the Lebanon talks and in the wider peace process, of course remains central.

He added that the assassination of Mr Isam Sartawi, PLO moderate, at the Socialist International meeting in Portugal, had been a setback to peace efforts.

Mr David Watkins (Consett, Lab): Was the question discussed of Israel's legal occupation and fortification of southern Lebanon and the West Bank, both of which are in direct contravention to the Reagan initiative. What efforts is the Government making in regard to these twin obstacles to peace in the Middle East?

Mr Pym: The Government's views on both these issues were discussed at length at the Arab League delegation and have been touched on in all recent discussions.

Mr Michael Latham (Milton, C): Having met King Hussein and also King Fahad, will he be going to Israel to meet the Israelis?

Mr Pym: I have no plans at the moment to do so, but it is always possible.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Leeds, East, Lab): I agree with the Foreign Secretary that the Reagan proposals still represent the best framework for a way forward, but would he not see the central problem has been the Begin Government's rigid and unconditional refusal to negotiate on these proposals?

Mr Pym: The Government has failed to influence the Israeli government either to withdraw troops from the Lebanon or freeze the settlements on the West Bank which has been turned into a fortress. We hear of the Israeli government's plan to build 57 more settlements on the West Bank in the next four years.

Does the government's approach that Mr Healey had changed his mind on cruise missiles.

Mr Healey said Tories had suggested this position on cruise missiles at one time been different from what it was now. That (he said) is absolutely untrue. (Labour cheers.)

The Russians were accused by Mr Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, of not accepting the view of Field Marshal Lord Carver that there is no military case for the deployment of these weapons and accept the growing evidence that their actual deployment would be immensely damaging to public support for Nato in all the countries concerned?

Will he therefore drop these proposals and ally himself with the great majority of people on both sides of the Atlantic who would support a freeze on the deployment of nuclear weapons.

Mr Pym: I totally reject what he says. The last Labour Government was a party to considering and agreeing that the question of modernization should be addressed. It has been addressed and brought to conclusion by this Government. I am certain that the absence of modernized intermediate nuclear weapons leaves a gap in our deterrent.

We have meeting against us a strongly increasing number of SS20s and other weapons, and unless we modernize our own weapons - our present ones are ageing and out-of-date - there will be a gap in our deterrent.

The whole basis of our defence policy is to deter war and preserve peace. We cannot afford in Nato to have any gap in that shield and that is why we are proceeding with these modernizations unless the Soviet Union are prepared to negotiate the zero option.

Mr Healey: The word "modernization" applied to these weapons is totally misleading because there have never been any intermediate land based missiles since Thor and Jupiter were withdrawn after the Russians had begun deploying their SS4 and SS5 missiles. To pretend that cruise is modernizing the short launch bulletproof nuclear weapons being withdrawn by Nato is dishonest in the extreme.

Mr Pym: That is not the proposal at all. What we are facing is an escalating number of SS20s. If we had not taken the decision to modernize we would have been exposed in that area.

Mr Pym said during later exchanges



Healey: Best framework

There are divisions within the PLO which make negotiations extremely difficult. It should be regretted that the PLO did not come to an agreement with King Hussein because that would have been a helpful aspect to progress in these negotiations.

Mr Dennis Walters (Westbury, C): The comment by General Eitan on the settlement on the West Bank was in blatant disregard of international opinion. Was not that the reason for the breakdown in peace negotiations?

Mr Pym: A number of people on both sides do make rather rash comments which are unhelpful. The comment on the proposal to increase by 57 the number of settlements on the West Bank at the time it was made and in the circumstances in which it was made, was an offensive statement to make.

It is the British Government's view that these settlements are illegal and contrary to the Reagan plan and the sooner this is reversed the better.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Finance Bill, second reading, Lords (3): British Shipbuilders Bill, report. Debate on EEC committee report on borrowing and lending.

EEC commitment to solve budget problem by June

Labour suggestions that a speech by M Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, at the European Parliament on Tuesday made clear that the Commission had no intention of taking part in negotiations for Britain's budget refund were answered by Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary.

He confirmed that it was the wish of the EEC Council of Foreign Ministers that the issue should be resolved at the June Council meeting.

Mr Robert Hicks (Bodmin, C) called on the Foreign Secretary to confirm that it was still the British Government's intention that the issue of the 1983 rebate for the United Kingdom should be resolved at the June meeting.

Will that still be the case (he asked) in view of recent speculation that the Commission might be prepared to accept a rebate for the United Kingdom.

Mr Pym: That was the clear wish of the Council. We shall see how things develop. It was the clear intention, which was missing before, to resolve the budget question. I hope that it will be so, as the summit decided.

Mr Eric Heffer, Opposition spokesman on European and Community affairs, at the European Assembly yesterday (Tuesday) Commissioner Thorn made clear that the Commission were not taking any part in the negotiations. Is it not clear that the Government's hopes for a June settlement have been dashed?

This underlines what MPs on all sides of this House have been saying, that the European Assembly is becoming a Parliament and flexing its muscles, taking decisions and putting Parliaments like this one into an impossible position.

Mr Pym: I have not seen the text of President Thorn's speech but having been at the Council I know what was decided. The Commission acts in accordance with those decisions so I have every reason to be satisfied that what was decided will be carried out.

Mr Pym was later asked by Mr Edward Taylor (Southend, East, C) to restate his objectives for EEC reforms in 1983 in the light of Council of Ministers meetings on March 21 and 22.

Mr Pym said: We have put forward proposals for developing European Community policy over the whole range of its activities. These include proposals for extending the internal market in goods and services, for reform of the operation of the

ships participating in exercise Spring Train, which is an annual exercise, to visit Gibraltar.

Sir Anthony Kershaw (Stroud, C): What can be done to bring home to the Spanish Government and the people the effect that these childish and ill-tempered outbursts are likely to have on Gibraltar?

Mr Hurd: It is inconceivable that Spain should join the Community while restrictions remain on the free movement of goods and services between Spain and Gibraltar. This was made clear to the Spanish foreign minister when he came here last month.

Ezra on choosing state industry chairmen

HOUSE OF LORDS

In paying a ridiculous fee for the services of Mr Ian MacGregor the Government has established a dangerous precedent, Lord Taylor of Gryfe (SDF) said when he opened a debate on the problems besetting relations between the Government and the nationalized industries. He said it might have to pay similar fees in future to British companies from which it hoped to attract top management.

Labour regarded state industries as essentially virtuous while the Conservatives saw them as an evil which must be liquidated as quickly as possible, irrespective of whether this made good sense or was in the best interests of the nation.

Would the shadow of the threat from both sides encourage management to make the long-term plans and investment decisions that were essential and attract the first class management necessary if these industries were to succeed?

The trouble (he said) is that we are caught up in a debate about ownership when we should be discussing efficiency. The first requirement for efficiency is to get your structure right so that we may recruit the best people to manage the industries and then permit them to manage.

Lord Bewick, for the Opposition, said it was possible to have a friendly and constructive relationship with a sponsoring department but the Treasury was a different thing. It was not a friendly and constructive character as they were, collectively he did not think they were now fitted for the role of financiers to commercial enterprises in the public sector.

Some different methods of finance need not, and must not, slacken financial discipline but they could mean a profound psychological improvement which could yield significant economic benefits.

No amount of structural change would avail unless the spirit which breathed through that structure was right. The self-interested or selfish

society carried its own seeds of destruction. To those who looked to an alternative and more hopeful future public or social ownership would have a part to play.

Lord Ewing (C) said he could not go along with the proposal that financing requirements of nationalized industries should be excluded from the public sector borrowing requirement.

The total cost of the nationalized industries in write-offs and capital grants since 1945 had been £40,000m. No one had yet solved the problem of how to stop a monopoly power backed by the taxpayers from plunging the private sector competitors into bankruptcy.

Lord Harris of High Cross (Ind) said that in the 10 years from 1970 to 1980 the net revenue of the nationalized assets was about £25,000m, less than its total payroll. Yet over that period the average prices of those industries' products rose 25 per cent faster than the general price index.

Lord Kers (LA), former chairman of the National Coal Board, said he had been in a nationalized industry for 35 years. After 35 years (he went on) we are no nearer a solution of the basic problem. One would have thought that a society such as ours could at least over that timescale have found some way of reconciling itself with the concept of public ownership.

If one wanted to criticize, say, the coal industry it was no good comparing it with a multiple store. What one had to compare it with were other coal industries in western Europe in like situations. They suffered from similar problems.

The publicly-owned enterprises generally happened to be in the basic sector. The heavy end of the industrial economy. Everyone who had studied the subject knew that there was a structural change going on and how to face up to it.

As chairman of the National Coal Board he had been the target of attack by ministers either for putting prices up by too much or by not enough.

They had to work out ground rules for the owners of nationalized industries - represented by the Government - and the managers which were consistent, clearly defined and which made sense.

Attention should be drawn to the somewhat grotesque manner in which chairmen and members of boards were appointed. They ought to try to devise a better system for doing this, and he suggested setting up a group of eminent personalities who could make recommendations of the sort of people who should be appointed to these jobs.

Names appeared to be deliberately leaked. It was not a rational way of operating in respect of those who were meant to lead these important enterprises.

There were certain sectors which were likely to remain publicly owned. Could it not be agreed that these were the sectors which were to be privatized?

By the end of 1982-83 the programme of special asset sales would have brought in receipts of about £2,000m and at least a further £2,500m was expected over the next three years. All these receipts directly reduced the PSBR with all that implied for inflation, taxes, interest rates and employment.

The Government's drive for efficiency was not restricted to privatization and the introduction of public utilities and so-called "natural monopolies" could not be allowed permanently to remain unchallenged.

It was a vital part of the Government's policy to foster competition in the industries wherever monopoly powers existed. Already he had seen an attempt to encourage competition in telecommunications, energy supply, transport and postal services. It would not hesitate to take further action where this was necessary.

Exposing the industries to the full vigour of competitive pressures in the market place was vital to the economic resurgence of Britain. Industries consuming one-tenth of productive capacity could not be left to be feather-bedded or kept by monopoly powers or by knowledge that the public purse was always open to them. The Government was proud of its success in this area and intended to press on with renewed vigour in the next Parliament.

The debate concluded.

Cameras in select committees

TELEVISION

Mr Austin Mitchell (Grimsby, Lab) was given leave by 163 votes to 136 to bring in a Bill to allow select committees of both House of Parliament to be televised. The Bill was read a first time.

Mr Mitchell said his Bill would strengthen the select committees, enabling them to remain in public view, and would allow Parliament to conduct an experiment with television to remove unjustified fears about it and show the benefits it could bring.

He said the reason why his work of investigation and inquiry should be left to whippersnappers on television, or amateurs like Sir Robin Day. The House would inevitably

give way to progress and be televised at some date in the future, and this could be seen as the first step towards that greater goal, although this measure only applied to select committees.

Mr Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw, Lab) opposing the Bill, said there were no television cameras allowed in the Palace libelous inquiry or inside the courts, because Britain had the sense to realize that witnesses could be inhibited by having a camera there and it could be more difficult to extract information from them.

Some witnesses like Mr Ken Livingstone or Mr Arthur Scargill, might welcome cameras, but committees were not for gaining publicity for a cause.

Under the new method, the Government was leaving no gaps at all. Any increase in inflation taking place between the end of May and November would be automatically caught in the following year's uprating.

On March 1, Labour published its 12 point plan for pensioners at the time of a pensioners' delegation to the House. On March 29 they launched their plan *New Hope For Britain* which included an emergency programme of action which an incoming Labour Government would carry out immediately. The 12 point plan for pensioners was not mentioned at all.

This strange omission was noted by *The Times* and seemed to have some difficulty in finding an official Opposition spokesman to explain. It was left to Mr Jeffrey Rooker to explain that Labour's commitment to the pensioners was so strong it went without saying, and that was why it had not been said.

According to *The Times*, Mr Peter Shore was costing the proposals at £500m but Mr Foot was costing them at £3 billion. He (Mr Rooker) thought it would be between £15 and 15 billion. There

Fowler calls on Labour to cost their pensions plan

SOCIAL SECURITY

The forecast method of uprating social security and housing benefits introduced by the last Labour government, should be got rid of, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said when he moved the second reading of the Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill to change the uprating method to the historic or actual method.

Mr Fowler said the so-called forecast method had been used since 1974. In essence, what it did usually at Budget time, of what the inflation rate was going to be in the following November. But this had been shown to be inexact. In the last seven years, the forecast had been wrong five times.

The last Labour government made the change to the forecast method, merely to save money - £500m.

Under this Bill the uprating would be based on the actual inflation rate between May 1982 and May 1983.

The reason for choosing that 12-month figure, which became available in mid-June, was that it was the last date which would enable the department to carry out the work of uprating and ensure that all the new benefits were paid out in time.

No-one would be more pleased than I (he said) if we could reduce further the time between the making of the annual uprating statement and the uprating itself. No-one wanted a wide time gap, least of all pensioners who often, understandably, complained.

The new arrangements would be an improvement in that the time lag would be reduced to six months from the index figure or five months from the time of the announcement.

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have had to uprate by 6 per cent. By using the lowest month, they believed they could save £500m by a disguised, and they hoped, unobserved clawback of 2 per cent of the 2.7 per cent they had overpaid last year.

The Bill could result in a married couple losing between \$0p and £1.05 a week and a single person between \$0p and 65p a week.

The only consolation in the whole of this operation (he said) is that the members of the House who are clobbering the poor at the behest of Maid Margaret, have been found out.

While he preferred the forecast method, he would not go to the stake for it. There was no need for the Opposition to vote against the Bill if the Government were to give an undertaking that if it turned out that inflation in November was higher than in May, the Government would automatically agree to ensure that social security beneficiaries did not lose out by the change.

If they gave that undertaking, Labour would not divide the House. The minister was shaking his head and he presumed *Hansard* would record that as a refusal.

It is about what I thought (he said) - an attempt to smuggle through a measure which would be a living of the poorest in the land. That will outrage everyone. The Opposition has to record the revulsion at such devious trickery.

Mrs Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgmont, C) said, the present system of forecasting inflation was higher than in May, the Government would automatically agree to ensure that social security beneficiaries did not lose out by the change.

Mr Brynner Jold, chief Opposition spokesman on the social security, moved an Opposition amendment declining a second reading of the Bill which, through a technical adjustment, would "fail to compensate social security beneficiaries by the full amount of inflation at the November uprating, thus imposing a hidden penalty on the lowest incomes in the country".

He said the Secretary of State was Doc Fowler, the finest medicine man with products curing everything from deafness to dyspepsia. Not for him doubts, nor an arm for an opinion other than his own.

The criticism of Mr Fowler was not that there were no weaknesses in the forecast method, but that the Opposition recognized that there were. The criticism was that Mr Fowler tried to pretend that the historic method of uprating was without flaw.

It was no good trying to compensate pensioners who died before the next uprating, or the unemployed who had to live with a 4 per cent uprating and 6 per cent inflation when they later became employed. They could never be compensated for the gap. He preferred a forecast method but conceded that it was not without flaws.

Mr Fowler had not given a categorical assurance today that the June announcement would be implemented in November. If he failed to meet that date it would be true. A longish gap between forecast and implementation was no longer inevitable.

Mr Fowler intervened in say that the difficulty was the weekly payments system which most pensioners appeared to want and so long as that was so, what Mr John wanted was not possible.

Mr John said that once that gap was closed, pensioners would not be so badly affected.

The May inflation figure was likely to be 4 per cent likely to be the lowest for this year and many more in future. By the forecast method the Government would

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Seat belts saving lives and cutting injuries, police computers show

By Richard Evans

The first real proof that compulsory wearing of seat belts is saving lives and substantially reducing serious road injuries is beginning to emerge from police computers throughout Britain.

Accident casualty figures collated for February, when the seat belt law came into force, are helping to confirm, in many cases, the most optimistic predictions of doctors and road safety experts.

An investigation this week by *The Times* into the injury and death rate for the crucial group of car and light goods vehicle drivers and front seat passengers during February has disclosed that serious road injuries have fallen by up to half in some counties, compared with figures for the same month in 1982.

In the West Midlands, for example, there were four deaths, 90 serious injuries and 252 slight injuries among car drivers and front seat passengers in February, 1982. In contrast there were two deaths, 68 serious and 227 slight injuries this February.

The number of accidents causing damage only rose from 1,392 to 1,842 this February.

North Yorkshire road safety officials have gathered the most detailed statistics for all road users affected by the new law. Casualties fell from 148 to 89 and serious injuries were down from 66 to 30.

In Leicestershire casualties dropped from 199 to 168 during the first six weeks of the new law. In Suffolk the death and injury rate dropped from 99 to 87 but, more significantly, serious injuries were more than halved from 39 to 17.

Eight car drivers and front seat passengers, none of whom was wearing a seat belt, died on Avon and Somerset roads in February, 1982. This year that toll among the same group was halved.

Not all counties have recorded such remarkable falls. One of the difficulties of comparing statistics is that few counties appear to collate their road accident material in the same way.

While police forces and road safety departments are treating the new figures with caution and emphasizing that firm conclusions should not be drawn from comparing one-month statistics, especially when road and weather conditions in February, 1982, were markedly worse than this year, officials are heartened by the decrease in casualties.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents said yesterday the new figures were "absolutely marvellous."

"It is exactly what we said would happen. It totally proves our point to those people who believe the compulsory wearing of seat belts is an infringement of personal liberty. I do not think saving people's lives can ever be called an infringement of personal liberty", a spokeswoman said.

Dr Steve Ashton, of Birmingham University's accident research unit, described the new casualty statistics as encouraging. "They are definitely confirming all the evidence that has been coming out of hospital casualty departments recently."

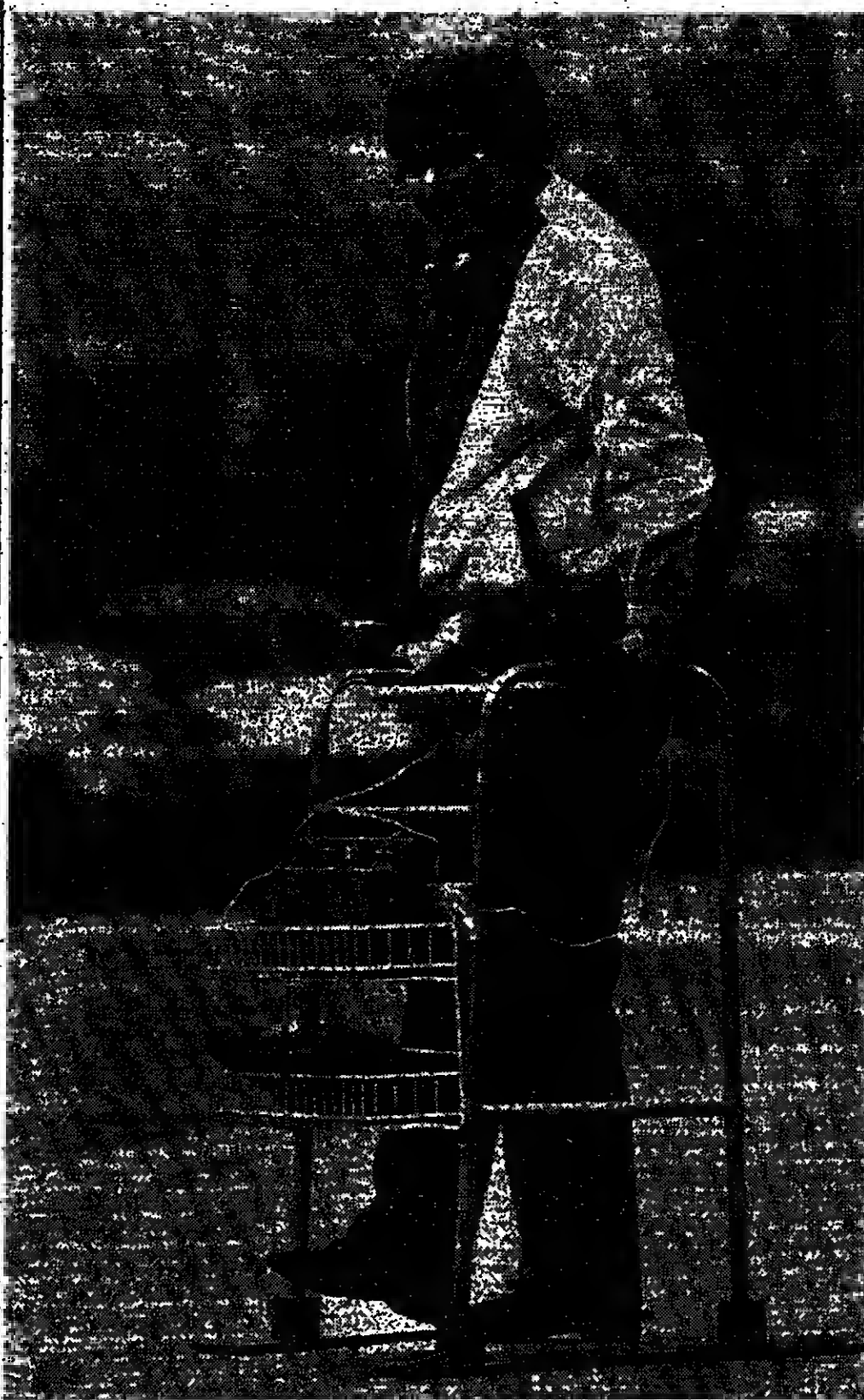
"We would like to wait a little longer and compare more than one month before we say categorically what the magnitude of the effect of wearing seat belts is, but there does appear to be a definite reduction in the number of people who are being seriously injured since compulsory belt use came in", he said.

He claimed that the February figures, encouraging as they are, fail to reflect all the benefits of the new law, because the police definition of "serious" injury is so wide. "We would expect to see a lot of changes in the kind of injuries being received which are not reflected in the statistics."

A two-year investigation sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Security and led by Mr William Rutherford, head of the accident and emergency department at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, is examining the changing pattern of road injuries after the introduction of the seat belt law.

"The consultants whom we meet are suggesting there is a reduction in head and facial injuries," Dr Michael Hayes, a member of the investigating team, said.

Injuries of this kind have fallen remarkably.



Walking again after 14 years

Mrs Jan Burgess from Swansea, demonstrating in London yesterday how an electronic power pack that triggers muscles into action has helped her to walk again after being paralysed from the waist down for 14 years.

The device was developed by Dr Hugh Grenfell, a former chief research engineer with the Steel Company of Wales, who produces high technology for the disabled.

Similar work is being done in the United States but Dr Grenfell's system avoids the use of computer and a mass of wiring.

Mrs Burgess began using the equipment last year. Because her muscles had wasted away she was at first only able to raise and lower her legs. However, she has been walking since February.

"There is now a real chance I will be able to climb steps and enter buildings" she said yesterday "instead of relying on people to lift me everywhere" (Photograph: Brian Harris).

New plastics may be used to make reusable car tyres

From Pearce Wright, Science Editor, Lancaster

Experiments with a new generation of synthetic materials, copolymers, that may transform the manufacture of car tyres among other items, were described at a Royal Society of Chemistry conference at Lancaster University.

There is intense competition between several research groups in Europe and the United States to perfect this family of substances. The level of work was indicated yesterday by Dr David Richards, of the Ministry of Defence's Propellants Explosives Rocketry and Materials Research Establishment in Essex.

He described the advances in organic chemistry that have opened the way for a new generation of plastics that use less energy to produce, are stronger than their predecessors, and are reusable.

He outlined the research at a meeting on copolymers, plastics made from a combination of molecules. They form the bulk of industrial and heavy duty plastics.

The group that Dr Richards focused on is derived from butadiene, a material that is now used for some car tyres and for products such as briefcases and luggage.

Modifications to make a new generation appear to be simple because the molecules are altered by sticking an extra bit on the end. That changes the chemical and physical properties of the plastic, giving it "polar" end. The process is comparable with that by which a small chemical group is added to molecules from which detergents are made to render them more soluble.

The effect on the new generation of copolymers is to make the polymer more stable at high temperatures, in particular at the high running temperature of the tyre of a car travelling at more than 30 mph.

One drawback of present materials is that at those temperatures they pass through the "glass transition" boundary, lose their rubber-like qualities, and become distorted just as simple plastics do.

The new family of polymers can be moulded into shape and can be melted down and reused.

The vulcanizing process needed to introduce rigidity into the material of present day car tyres means that an old tyre cannot be easily reused; hence the environmental problem of old car tyres.

'Economist' uses satellite for US printing

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

A landmark in the history of the European printing industry will be reached today when pages of the American edition of *The Economist* are transmitted by satellite for printing in New England, US.

It is the first time that a European publication has used the transatlantic satellite, Intelsat V, on such a large scale for transmitting data for printing. The method will revolutionize the American operation of the British weekly and is expected to give it a marketing edge in the US as it attempts to compete, albeit modestly, with the mass-circulation *Newsweek* and *Time*. It is an important market for the British magazine, which sells about 40 per cent of its 2,480,000 copies in North America.

The pages will be set using video display terminals in north London where a photographic master is made of the copy. The master is scanned by a laser and the copy and pictures converted into electronic pulses. These pulses, called digital signals, are then transmitted to an earth station satellite aerial in Madley, Hertfordshire, by cable and beamed across the Atlantic via the satellite to Etam, Virginia.

Once in America the signals go by cable to Manhattan, New York, where the signals are converted back into pages and pictures onto a negative film. It is that film which is used as the master for printing the publication in Connecticut.

It will take about an hour to transmit the colour cover. Inside pages will take seven to eight hours.

The electronic transmission and printing are a marked contrast to the method previously employed for the American edition when film for the editorial cover was produced on a Wednesday night in London and flown to New York by Concorde on Thursday morning.

Farmers claim over drainage loss

From Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent, Blackford

Farmers are to claim annual compensation of up to £100 an acre for not draining and ploughing high grade farmland on the Somerset Levels. The whole 2500 acres have been declared an official site of special scientific interest, which enables farmers to claim state compensation for lost profit.

Most of the land on the levels is owned by private farmers and had been the centre of a long dispute with naturalists about the operation of wildlife protection law.

Mr Anthony Gibbon, Somerset county secretary of the National Farmers' Union, said the union would seek compensation for members who were restrained from draining because they farmed on the bird refuge at West Sedgemoor on the levels.

Further north, a government order had prevented Mr Christopher Duckett from using drainage equipment on 70 acres of his land at Tealham Moor, although it has not yet been declared an official area of scientific interest. He said yesterday that in wet summer his grazing land was sometimes under water.

Sir Richard Butler, the president of the union, said that it would support any appeal which Mr Duckett made against the order. His drainage scheme was installed with advice from the ministry of Agriculture.

But the Department of Environment ordered him, on advice from the nature Conservation Council, not to use it. Seventy per cent of the ditches would not be affected, as the council wanted to see weeds in them, Sir Richard said.

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This scheme which has been extended until 31st December 1983 provides up to 25% of the total project capital cost of converting from oil and/or gas to coal-firing.

IS YOUR COMPANY ELIGIBLE?	
User of oil and/or gas as the main fuel?	✓
Part of the manufacturing or service industries?	✓
Cost of new coal-fired project exceeds £15,000?	✓

All companies in the private manufacturing and most service industries are eligible, providing that oil and/or gas has been used to meet at least 75% of the process or heating requirement, and the scheme does not disqualify applicants from the benefit of other grants - Regional Development Grants for example.

The net cost of the new project must exceed £15,000.

If your company meets these requirements you could be well on the way to receiving the grant.

And if you are in a development or special

area, you could be in line for further grants.

EVEN MORE HELP.

In line with the extension of the Government Grant Scheme, Exchange Risk Cover Scheme Loans will also be available until the end of the year.

These two Schemes combined can provide up to 75% of the capital cost of converting from oil or gas to coal firing - 25% as grant and 50% as a preferential loan.

The loan scheme is also supported by a 3% interest rebate subsidy.

The combination of these facilities offers industry an unprecedented incentive to

convert to coal firing, and do not disqualify applicants from the benefit of other grants. Regional Development Grants for example. The total capital available to aid conversion is limited and therefore early application is advisable.

The NCB is also willing to assist by entering into favourable medium and long-term supply arrangements with individual customers.

GOOD FOR YOUR COMPANY. GOOD FOR BRITAIN.

It is within the power of coal to make British Industry more efficient, more cost-

effective, more competitive in world markets.

If we make the most of what coal has to offer, we will reduce the UK's dependence on oil and take the pressure off demand for the limited supplies of gas.

All of Britain will benefit. Your company included.

For information on the grant and loan schemes please write to one of these addresses:

Department of Industry, Charles House,
375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH
(or any regional DOI office).

Or for any information, National Coal Board,
Technical Service, Marketing Department,
Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7AE.

Name _____
Title _____
Company _____
Address _____

NCB
TGS 14/83 Coal. The fuel with a future.

Black vote wins Chicago

Mayor tries to heal racial rift

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

With victory chants still ringing in his ears, Mr Harold Washington, who was narrowly elected the first black Mayor of Chicago, yesterday took steps to end the racial divisiveness which had scarred the city during two months of bitter campaigning.



Triumph: Mr Washington announcing his victory in the mayoral election.

As the last results came in it emerged that Mr Washington, twice elected to Congress when he was 61 on Friday, had captured about 52 per cent of the vote, while his Republican rival, Mr Bernard Epton, a Jewish liberal millionaire lawyer, received 48 per cent.

The turnout, estimated at 82 per cent, was the highest since the 1944 presidential election, reflecting the depth of feelings that has been aroused during this hard-fought campaign, probably the dirtiest in Chicago's 150-year history.

Yvoting took place along predictably racial lines, with Mr Washington capturing over 30 per cent of the ballot aided by blacks, who turned out to vote in record numbers. Mr Epton won most of the white ethnic votes, even among those who traditionally vote Democrat.

However, Mr Epton performed less well than he had hoped among the city's 90,000-strong Spanish-speaking community, as well as among white middle-class liberals living in the smart blocks of flats that line the shore of Lake Michigan.

Despite his defeat Mr Epton nevertheless achieved the largest vote for a Republican candidate in Chicago's history. The city has been run by Democratic mayors and a powerful Democratic party machine for the past 52 years, and until Mr Washington's victory in the Democratic primary last February Mr Epton was rated a total outsider.

French pack their bags in Moscow

From Richard Owen Moscow

Speculation that the Russians are about to retaliate against French diplomats in Moscow rose yesterday as the Soviet press stepped up its criticism of the expulsion of Soviet officials from Paris last week.

French diplomats said they felt that some sort of response was inevitable. "I've already packed my bags just in case," one diplomat said.

France expelled 47 Soviet diplomats and officials last Tuesday. Since there are fewer than 40 French diplomats in Moscow, the Soviet Union cannot respond in kind, but is expected to react by expelling a proportionately equivalent number.

The expelled Soviet officials in Paris represent a tenth of the total Soviet representation in France.

Diplomatic sources said it normally took the Soviet authorities several weeks to retaliate, but in recent cases Moscow has reacted more quickly.

Last Friday, a week after Britain had expelled two Soviet diplomats and a Soviet journalist, Moscow ordered Squadron Leader David Williams, the British assistant air attaché, and Mr Anthony Robinson, the Moscow correspondent of the Financial Times, to leave the country.

The two expelled Britons are to arrive at Heathrow on a British Airways flight today, Mr Robinson, one of the most widely respected foreign correspondents in Moscow, said before leaving that he hoped to return.

Pravda yesterday signalled that the "tit for tat" retaliations would continue by printing a Tass report condemning the "hysteria" and "provocative hullabaloo" surrounding the expulsions of Soviet officials from France.

The report said a "muddy wave of absurd allegations" about Soviet espionage had appeared in the French press "in the style of trashy detective stories". The report noted that the expulsions had been "leaked" in The New York Times, suggesting American connivance.

Peace tour of four capitals

Tegucigalpa (AFP) - Foreign Ministers of four Latin-American countries have arrived here after visiting three other central American capitals during the day on a mission to bring peace to the region.

The representatives of Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and Panama described their tour as a desperate effort to find a way to bring Nicaragua and Honduras to the negotiating table.

President Belisario Betancur of Colombia, who inspired the tour, said in Bogota on Tuesday night that they were trying to head off "total war between the superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. If they want to clash, let them seek other battlegrounds, away from Central America".

The right-wing Nicaraguan Democratic Front claimed yesterday that its fighters were consolidating positions in north-western Nicaragua, and had repulsed an offensive by 4,000 Government troops on Tuesday.

Señor Betancur said the peace effort had received several setbacks in the past few hours, including an insulting letter from Señor Cordova of Honduras, a Columbian radio station reported.

But Señor Betancur said that Washington had indicated that it would accept the four-nation mission. He hoped Cuba and other countries would respond favourably.

MANAGUA: The Defence Ministry said that 283 soldiers on both sides had been killed or wounded in fighting between Government troops and Honduran-based exiles in the past two weeks (AP reports). A total of 197 rebels have been killed and 40 wounded, while Government casualties were 34 dead and 14 wounded.

Greece and Cyprus to appeal to UN

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The Greek and Cypriot governments have agreed to raise the Cyprus question before the UN General Assembly and at the next European summit conference, but at the same time to encourage new initiatives and strive to make the intercommunal talks more substantive.

President Kyrianiou of Cyprus who returns to Nicosia today after six days of talks in Greece told the press yesterday: "There is absolute agreement between the governments of Greece and Cyprus both on strategy and on tactics."

Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, no longer makes the continuation of the intercommunal talks in Cyprus conditional on the withdrawal of the Turkish troops occupying the north of the island.

Mr Papandreu told reporters on Tuesday: "It is clear that the bi-communal talks shall continue as long as this is a UN decision". He did not see that the solution of the Cyprus problem was possible outside the United Nations.

This new position of the Greek Government estimated the root of the year-long estrangement between Athens and Nicosia and made agreement possible on the text of the Cypriot appeal.

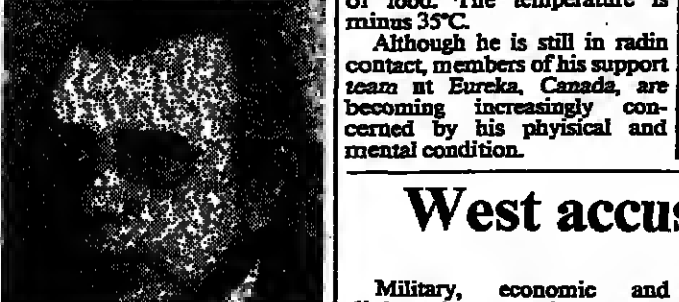
President Kyrianiou: Full agreement.

Icy weather worsens for explorer

The plight of David Hempleman-Adams, the lone British Arctic explorer, grew more serious yesterday as weather conditions on the ice cap worsened. A light aircraft was unable to take off to drop rations to the explorer because a blanket of ice and fog covered much of the area.

Mr Hempleman-Adams, who is aiming to become the first man to walk solo to the North Pole, is stranded in a tiny tent and trying to preserve his few remaining supplies. He is thought to be on his last packets of food. The temperature is minus 35°C.

Although he is still in radio contact, members of his support team in Eureka, Canada, are becoming increasingly concerned by his physical and mental condition.



President Kyrianiou: Full agreement.

Dioxin route disclosed

Rome (AP) - An Italian company said yesterday that a customs document accompanying toxic waste from Italy's worst environmental disaster showed that the shipment was bound for a French company in northern France.

A copy of the customs waybill released by the company, which oversaw the shipment of the waste, said that 41 drums of the toxic waste from the site of a chemical plant explosion in Seveso, near Milan, in 1976 left Italy for St Quentin, 75 miles northwest of Paris, to be delivered to a French company called Speldec.

The Middle East crisis



Middle East optimism: Mr Arafat and Mr Palme are all smiles after their talks in Stockholm on the chances of further negotiations based on the Reagan peace plan.

Israel's man with a mission

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Mr Samuel Flatto-Sharon took chocolate croissants and weak tea for breakfast yesterday then settled himself on the sofa of a well-appointed East Beirut apartment and refused to say anything about his reported efforts to secure the release of Israeli prisoners of war.

Was he negotiating on behalf of the Israeli Government? "No comment," Mr Sharon replied confidently. And according to the Israeli Defence Ministry, "No responsible authority in the army or the defence establishment empowered Mr Flatto-Sharon to negotiate on Israeli prisoners".

But lying conspicuously on a bedside table was a sheaf of documents listing personal details and rank numbers of at least nine Jewish soldiers believed to be in Syrian or Palestinian hands.

Furthermore, officials of the Christian Phalange party in East Beirut seem quite convinced that Mr Sharon - a former member of the Knesset - is not only acting for the Israeli Army but has several PLO officials in the course of his visit to Lebanon.

Mr Flatto-Sharon is a man with a past. The French authorities have vainly sought his extradition from Israel after sentencing him in absentia to five years imprisonment for fraud and tax evasion.

In Israel itself, he is appealing against a nine-month prison sentence after being convicted of buying votes in the 1977 Knesset elections. In East Beirut, he was carrying his credentials as a former member of the Israeli parliament.

The Phalange, however, are under the impression that Mr Flatto-Sharon - despite his record - really is trying to secure the release of Israeli prisoners from Damascus and from Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

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The Phalange even believe that the Israeli Army flew Mr Flatto-Sharon into their new airstrip near the town of Damour three days ago to help him in his mission.

Curiously enough, Mr Flatto-Sharon was discovered yesterday afternoon standing outside the beachside hotel at Khalde just south of Beirut where Israeli, Lebanese and American negotiators - including Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy - were discussing troop withdrawals from Lebanon. He left shortly afterwards on an Israeli military aircraft.

Mr Flatto-Sharon is known to regard himself as something of an expert at securing the release of prisoners and has told Phalangists in Beirut that he helped free Jewish dissidents in the Soviet Union.

Asked at Khalde if the prisoners might be released, he replied: "I hope soon. There is hope."

Left steps up protests at West Bank expansion

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Left-wing Israelis opposed to the hard-line security policies of the Begin Government have launched a series of protests designed to demonstrate internal opposition to the unresolved war in Lebanon and the continued expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The moves have coincided with a new Government-sponsored campaign - the most expensive of its kind ever organized - to persuade Israeli families to move to 4,000 new apartments and building plots which have recently become available in the West Bank.

Yesterday the organizers of the new group named "In to the Awar" held a press conference to publicize the protest campaign in which hundreds of reserve soldiers and officers have already returned the official ribbons recently awarded by the Government to all those who took part in the war in Lebanon.

One of the campaigners, Sergeant Carlos Weiner, has been sentenced to six days in military prison as a punishment for his action and demoted in rank.

Members of the group, who claim that it is the next time in Israel's history that a campaign ribbon has been presented while a war is still in progress have signed a petition which declares: "We went to this war by the order of the law, but not by the order of the heart."

Meanwhile, a separate group of some 30 members of the Peace Now movement have established a "protest settlement" near Nablus, the largest Palestinian town in the West Bank in an effort to counter the Government's plan to establish a new Jewish settlement there next week on the 35th anniversary of Israel's independence.

The new settlement is eventually intended to become the Jewish suburb of "Upper Nablus".

The protesters, who maintain that they will soon be joined by scores of other peace activists, have set up tents inside a compound surrounded by barbed wire. They have also taken a generator to the site to illuminate a large sign declaring: "No annexation."

In a third move, members of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel - and a number of Knesset deputies - have called on the film and theatre censorship board to revoke a decision banning an episode about the West Bank in a new Israeli film called "83". The board is now to review its decision.

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Sartawi buried in Jordan

Amman (Reuters) - Issam Sartawi, the moderate Palestinian leader assassinated in Portugal on Sunday, was buried yesterday in Martyrs Cemetery in a simple ceremony.

His widow and four sisters were at the graveside as Palestinian soldiers lowered the casket.

Nearly 1,000 people attended the funeral, including Prince Raad bin Zaid, King Hussein's Chamberlain, Mr Hassan Ibrahim, the Jordanian Minister of State for Occupied Territories Affairs, M Jacques Alain de Sedouyts, the French Ambassador, and several Palestine Liberation Organization officials.

Mr Sartawi was shot while attending a Socialist International congress as a PLO observer.

After prayers yesterday at the Jordan University mosque the coffin, draped in the Palestinian flag, was taken in a Palestine Liberation Army ambulance to the cemetery, where many Palestinians are buried.

LISBON: Mr Anwar Abu Eishan, a PLO member, who was injured when Sartawi was shot, was yesterday discharged from hospital and boarded an aircraft for Tunisia, Susan MacDonald writes.

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Iranian oil well hit in Gulf naval battle

Bahrain (Reuters) - Iran and Iraq, locked in ground and air clashes since Sunday, have fought a naval battle in the Gulf, and Iran claims that one of its offshore-oil wells was hit by a missile.

Iraq said its navy sank two big Iranian naval vessels which approached its coast, but did not mention any attack on oil wells. But the Iranian news agency IRNA said the Iraqis used six gunboats and helicopters against the oil well.

Mr Hossein Mousavi, the Iranian Prime Minister, in an interview with Tehran radio, indirectly accused Iraq of trying to pollute the Gulf but said there was a new oil spill. News of the battle disrupted a crisis meeting in Kuwait of Gulf states ministers to discuss the huge oil slick affecting much of the Gulf.

Cyclones leave trail of havoc

Calcutta (Reuters) - A four-minute cyclone killed at least 50 people and injured 1,500 when it ripped through a coastal district in West Bengal. More than 6,000 people were made homeless in 21 villages about 25 miles from here, destroying houses and uprooting power poles.

PAPEETE: The worst cyclone to hit Tahiti in modern times swept over the island, killing one person, injuring 26, and leaving more than 5,000 homeless. AP reports.

Bomb attack in Philippines

Zamboanga City (AP & AFP) - Three bomb explosions in this city on Mindanao island in the Philippines killed a mayor's son and nephew and wounded 10 other people. The military said the attacks came a month after they had uncovered an alleged Muslim rebel plot to "create disturbances".

In Manila intelligence agents arrested Mr Antonio Maria Nieva, a prominent journalist and leader of a newspaper union.

Atlantic defeat

Robbin Knox-Johnston (above), who left New York 11 days ago in his catamaran Sea Falcon, has failed in an attempt to cross the Atlantic in record time. A force 2 wind robbed him of the chance to beat the present record of 9 days 10 hours 6 minutes, held by Marc Pajot of France.



Athens (AP) - A parked car rigged with explosives blew up in an Athens suburb, injuring the First Secretary of the Saudi Arabian Embassy and his driver as their car passed by.

Lippizaners die

Vienna (AP) - A herpes-induced epidemic equine rhino-encephalitis has killed three more of Austria's prized Lippizaner horses, bringing the death toll to 39.

Singer banned

Harare (AP) - A Zimbabwe concert tour by Jimmy Cliff, the Jamaican reggae singer, has been cancelled after the Government said he would be banned because he had performed in South Africa in 1979.

Fainting gunman

Swansea, Massachusetts (Reuters) - A bungling bank robber fainted when the woman cashier he held up at gunpoint said she had no money. He had also locked his getaway car with the keys inside.

Correction

The 39-storey International Trade Centre in Dubai is about 500m high, not 150m as stated in Letter from Dubai on April 8.

TWA to and through the USA

Chicago non-stop.

Direct 747 service every day (except Monday and Wednesday) from Heathrow, departing 13.30, arriving Chicago 14.55. TWA also flies to over 50 US cities. One way Stand-by £238. See your TWA Main Agent.



Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Seeing how old some new cars are, it's not surprising dealers are practically giving them away.

The Audi 80 comes with a three-year anti-blister, anti-fade paintwork warranty and a six-year anti-rust warranty. At the time of going to press, that combination is unique.

The Audi 80 Turbo Diesel gives you the nearly 60 mpg economy of a diesel engine combined with the nearly 100 mph performance of a petrol engine.

The Audi 80 has 5 seat belts as standard; the Vauxhall Cavalier and Citroen CX leave something (not to say, someone) to chance.

The Audi 80 has self-stabilising steering to help you stop in a straight line after blowing a tyre; in a BL Ambassador, Ford Sierra, Vauxhall Cavalier or Alfa Giulietta you're still left wrestling with the steering wheel.

The Audi 80 is front wheel drive, unlike the Ford Sierra, BMW 3 Series and Alfa Giulietta, which all quaintly insist on pushing you around corners.

The Audi 80 GL has a unique stop/start system. While every other car in a traffic jam is wasting petrol idling, press a button and the 80 gets busy saving petrol by cutting the engine whenever you stop for more than 5 seconds.

The Audi 80 has electronic ignition to make sure it starts first time, every time. It's safe to say that the BL Ambassador and Alfa Giulietta are cars you could, on occasion, throttle.

The Audi 80 CD has a 5-cylinder engine giving it the performance of 6 cylinders and the economy of 4. Nothing else has (why not, you may ask).

The Audi 80 has an econometer and gear shift indicator to help you squeeze the last fraction of a mile out of every gallon; the Vauxhall Cavalier and Alfa Giulietta are extravagant by comparison.



Lucky Luciano's partner among 11 murdered in Sicilian Mafia violence

From John Earle
Rome

Eleven people have been murdered in Sicily in a flare-up of Mafia violence during the last 24 hours. Six were killed in two attacks in Palermo, four in Catania in the east, and one in Gela in the south. Rivalry between clans of the crime syndicates involved in the international drug racket were responsible, according to the police.

This latest wave of killings is the most violent since the assassination last September of General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, a Carabinieri general sent to Sicily with a brief to stamp out the Mafia.

Among Tuesday's Palermo victims was "Nino the rich" Signor Antonio Sorci, aged 78, described as a lieutenant of the late Lucky Luciano, the underworld leader whom the authorities expelled to his native Italy after the last war.

Signor Sorci's 28-year-old son Carlo, who died with him, had in his pocket an air ticket for a flight yesterday to New York. Both their names were on a list of 162 suspected drug traffickers drawn up by the police last summer.

Signor Sorci's car was ambushed in the centre of

Etna rumbles on

Catania, Sicily (Reuter) - An eruption at Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano, showed no sign yesterday of abating, more than two weeks after it began.

A luxury cablecar, a ski lift, mountain cabins for summer tourists, roads, woods and electricity pylons have been damaged or destroyed, but no densely populated areas are threatened.

Signor Carmelo Staziola, a volcanologist at Catania University, said there were three distinct lava flows down the south, south-east and south-west faces of the volcano.

Palermo on Tuesday night. His son was gunned down from a passing car.

The Sorci family was stated by police to be linked with a gang which had operated an underground narcotics refinery, discovered last year when more than 100lb of morphine and heroin were seized.

Signor Sorci, was a contractor who built a villa in Palermo where two years ago police broke up a meeting of gangland leaders.

Not far away three members of the Romagnolo family were

shot dead and four were injured as they stood outside their shop selling shoes and leather goods. The main target appears to have been Signor Giuseppe Romagnolo, aged 40, who was released from Palermo prison last month. He was killed.

The only victim not suspected of Mafia connections was Signor Carmelo Basile, aged 43, a security guard, who was shot dead as he entered his home near Catania.

The other dead man of some importance was Signor Giuseppe Misuraca, aged 70, shot dead yesterday in a Palermo street by two men on a motor cycle. He was described as an elderly Mafia boss who had several times been sentenced to terms of imprisonment.

In a separate incident, nine people were arrested yesterday for fraud in connexion with the expenditure of regional government funds in public works in Palermo, and the public prosecutor announced that charges were being laid against a further 26.

Among those arrested was Signor Ludovico Martellucci, aged 59, a builder and brother of the Christian Democrat Mayor, Signor Nello Martellucci, who recently announced he was resigning.



West German census postponed

Jubilant lawyers and plaintiffs celebrating their victory yesterday after the West German Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe ruled that a census planned for April 27 should be postponed.

The court granted an injunction to two Hamburg lawyers and a law student, pending investigation of the legality of the first census since 1970, Reuter reports.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said that the ruling meant no new census could be taken for at least a year.

The lawyers, backed by trade unionists, the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) and hundreds of anti-census groups argued that the census would violate constitutional rights to privacy.

The president of the court said the injunction, valid for three months, did not pre-empt a final decision on whether the census would be banned or authorized in a modified form.

Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, SPD parliamentary leader, welcomed the injunction, and the Green party

described it as an endorsement of public resistance to the project.

Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, Interior Minister, who inherited responsibility for the census when he took office in October, denied any suggestion that the ruling reflected criticism of his administration. A spokesman for the ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) said that the previous SPD Government did not take proper care in preparing the census. He said the need for a national survey was beyond dispute.

Solidarity 'arranged' escape of shot man'

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Nine Solidarity activists on trial at the Warsaw Military Court were responsible for smuggling a wounded unionist out of hospital, evading militia guards in the corridor, according to the Army newspaper *Zolnierz Wolnosc*.

The activists, who belonged to an underground group known as the Interfactory Workers' Solidarity Committee (MRKS), have been on trial for almost a fortnight accused of inciting strikes and street demonstrations in Warsaw, publishing illegal publications designed to disturb public order, and "resorting to terror against their political opponents".

But according to the Army newspaper, the group which had underground links with 63 factories, was instrumental in making Warsaw one of the most active underground centres in Poland. Two hundred people had been investigated in connexion with the group and 21 arrested, though so far only nine are facing trial.

Mr Jan Narozniak, an active member of the KOR dissident group, was stopped last summer by a police patrol. When he tried to escape he was shot in the leg and taken to hospital under heavy guard. There the MRKS group contrived Mr Narozniak's escape from the operating theatre where the guards were forbidden to enter.

According to unofficial sources at the time, he was put into a laundry bag and escaped down a rubbish chute.

Meanwhile, the military prosecutor of the Wroclaw garrison has published a report which declared that an inquiry has exonerated the police in shooting incidents in the copper town of Lubin last August during which two people died. A third subsequently died of his wounds.

"When the increasingly impudent demonstrators became still more aggressive, the order-keeping forces used fire arms, shooting blanks as a warning", the report said.

Several policemen were then encircled and "under circumstances of direct threat to life and health" they used live ammunition, shooting above the heads of the crowd. The bullets ricocheted, mortally wounding two demonstrators.

Apart from the third who subsequently died, "four other people were wounded by rifle shots and several others were injured by petals and tear gas grenades".

Pondering the message of urban decay

By Tony Samstag

The great cities of the world are dying, most students of the subject agree, but there is room for discussion as to whether that moribund urban condition signals an opportunity for renaissance or truly the beginning of the end.

Today, accordingly, member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development meet in Paris for two days' consideration of *Inter alia*, programmes for rehabilitating the inner city, cost-efficiency in public services, enterprise zones and tax concessions.

It is, says the OECD, the first time that those particular ministers with urban portfolios have met at international level, reflecting the "growing recognition that cities have a key role to play in achieving sustainable economic development".

Leaving aside the more parochial political obsessions of the member nations, which will dictate, for example, that Lord Bellwin, Minister for Local Government and Environment Services in the Department of

the Environment, proselytizes on behalf of the Government's keenness to forge a partnership between private and public sectors in the service of urban reclamation on the cheap, the symposium will have some horrifying statistics to ponder.

Montreal, Paris, Frankfurt, Osaka and Stockholm lost at least 15 per cent of their inner city residents during the seventies. During the same period

Lagos world's most expensive city

Geneva (AP) - The rise of the dollar has shifted rankings among the world's most expensive cities but the Nigerian capital of Lagos remains the unchallenged leader in 1983, according to a survey compiled by Business International, an independent research company.

For the second year Lagos topped a list of 26 cities throughout the world, followed by Tokyo and Cairo. Mexico City was at the bottom end, with an index of 41 against

Greater London lost a quarter of a million in population.

Cities as diverse as Detroit and Lyons, crippled respectively by declining car and textile manufacturing, shrank by more than a fifth. Liverpool and Birmingham, of course, have declined, but Amsterdam, The Hague, Duisberg and even Basle are rapidly becoming shadows of their former selves.

Where populations are grow-

ing as in many of the big Mediterranean cities such as Barcelona, Milan, Athens, and Ankara, "there, as in the cities of north-west Europe in an earlier period, pell-mell population increase and immigration are both fuelling economic growth and overwhelming the capacity of the authorities to prepare relevant development plans and finance services such as sewers, water supplies".

companies determine the cost of living differentials paid to expatriate executives.

The weighted index is based on a food "basket", household supplies, recreation, transport and selected other items.

Oslo, which ranked number three worldwide with an index figure of 125, remained Europe's most expensive city.

A 12 city "guide on travel costs", also released by Business International, showed London as the most expensive place for visiting executives.

Dead heat in Greenland poll

From Christopher Follett
Copenhagen

The ruling moderate left-wing anti-EEC Siumut Party of Mr Jonathan Motzfeldt, chairman of the Landsting, Greenland's Parliament in Godthaab, seems set to continue in power as a minority administration despite a setback at Tuesday's elections.

With its share of the vote dropping to 42 per cent Siumut lost its absolute majority in the Landsting in a dead heat with the main opposition party, the right-wing pro-EEC Atassut, which saw its electoral support increase to 46 per cent. Both parties now holding 12 seats in the 26-seat Landsting.

At the first poll in Greenland, which achieved home rule under the Danish crown in 1979, the island's two main parties' share of the vote was the reverse.

As expected, the small left-wing Inuit Eskimo nationalist party took advantage of this week's polarised vote to gain entrance to the Landsting for the first time with around 10 per cent of the vote. They have two seats and the prospect of



Mr Motzfeldt: Still in command

influencing developments in the country.

Inuit has demanded more rapid "Greenlandisation", including complete local control of the vast icebound territory's rich mineral resources such as lead, zinc, cryolite and uranium at present shared with Denmark.

It also wants a strengthening of ties with the neighbouring Eskimos of North America, as well as a total breach with the EEC, which Greenlanders nar-

rowly voted to leave in a referendum last year.

According to Ritzen, the Danish national news agency, Mr Motzfeldt, acknowledging his party's losses, said he would continue relying on shifting parliamentary alliances to rule the territory but offered to cooperate with the Inuit party. He is sure of the support of Atassut for his attempts to secure an associate trade agreement with the EEC, such as is enjoyed at present by the British Falkland Islands, the Dutch Antilles and French Polynesia, in the current delicate negotiations with Brussels on withdrawal from the Community by January 1, 1984.

Greenland, whose status within Denmark is similar to that of the Isle of Man in the United Kingdom, joined the EEC reluctantly along with Denmark in 1973.

The island's decision to opt out of the EEC will lose it an estimated 200 kroner (15.4m) annually in aid from Brussels, making the economy one of Mr Motzfeldt's new government's main preoccupations.

British Aerospace and Airbus - on the wings of success



The Russians in the Far East

Defector names Japanese 'spies'

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Mr Stanislav Levchenko, the Soviet spy who defected to the United States in 1979, has stirred up a political hornet's nest in Japan by naming several prominent Japanese whom, he said, he had himself recruited as agents for the KGB.

Liberal Democratic Party code-named "Grace", a member of Parliament and an influential member of the Japan Socialist Party, as well as several other politicians, journalists and businessmen, are included.

Mr Levenko plans to write his own account of his life as a spy sometime this year. His story so far has been told in the Reader's Digest book, KGB Today: The Hidden Hand.

intelligence operations, I really think Japan is a paradise for spies," he says. Mr Levchenko says that the definition of a KGB agent is broad, and that whether someone is one wittingly or unwittingly does not matter, some of those named in the book denied ever having met Levchenko.

Moscow wants Asian security talks

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Soviet officials said yesterday that Moscow was actively seeking an Asian security conference which would take into account the fears raised in China and Japan by the stationing of medium range missiles in Soviet Asia.

of repeated Soviet proposals for an Asian "collective security pact". Moscow has said that it will do more than dust off long standing proposals, however, and has offered to discuss the changed circumstances of Soviet-Asian relations, including the anxieties aroused by the deployment of SS20s in the Soviet Far East.

surrounding waters were "bristling with nuclear weapons". Tokyo has denied this, and rejects Mr Gromyko's charge that the island of Okinawa is "a huge nuclear weapons base".

of an agreement on European medium range missile reductions at Geneva. Diplomatic sources said they doubted whether Japan and China would agree to a regional security conference.

Hanoi to cut troops in Cambodia

Bangkok (Reuters) - Vietnam and its two neighbouring allies, Laos and Cambodia, announced yesterday that a partial withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia would take place next month, Hanoi radio reported.

The announcement came after an unexpected meeting of foreign ministers from the three countries on Tuesday, in Phnom Penh.

Thai military officials in Bangkok say that a large Vietnamese force is poised for a final dry-season attack on Cambodian guerrillas on the Thai border before Hanoi loses its military advantage with the onset of monsoon rains expected late this month or in early May.

A communiqué, quoted by Hanoi radio and monitored in Bangkok, said that the troops would be withdrawn because of the stable situation in Cambodia.

Vietnam pledged in February that, depending on the security situation, it would make regular annual withdrawals from Cambodia beginning this year. It first announced last July that it was withdrawing some of its estimated 180,000 troops there.

said that Vietnam merely rotated elements of its garrison in Cambodia. Western diplomats in Hanoi said that between 10,000 and 12,000 Vietnamese troops had left Cambodia and had been replaced by an unknown number of fresh soldiers.

Universities protest at race quotas

From Michael Horasby, Johannesburg

The vice-chancellors of South Africa's four main English-speaking universities have issued a strong joint protest against legislation going through Parliament which would force them to observe racially based quotas for the admission of black students.

The protest was agreed at a meeting earlier this week called after the first reading by Parliament of the legislation. It was attended by the vice-chancellors of the universities of Cape Town, Natal (Durban and Pietermaritzburg), Rhodes (Grahamstown) and the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg).

Professor D. J. Du Plessis, the vice-chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, told The Times yesterday that the new legislation, if implemented, would be even more objectionable than the existing unacceptable interference with universities' rights.

Diary of a would-be assassin

From Christopher Thomas, New York

A grisly diary of death of the man who shot Governor George Wallace of Alabama and plotted to kill President Richard Nixon is up for sale.

Arthur Bremer will spend most of his life in prison for the shooting in Maryland in May, 1972. Governor Wallace, who has been undergoing treatment lately for bouts of depression, will spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

The diary chronicles Bremer's plans to assassinate the Governor: "Great idea - get a 3 x 5 confederate flag, drape it over my shoulder to conceal the gun in my hand. An easy way to approach the great Governor, to shake his humble hand. And shake his heart, lungs, and maybe a head shot or two..."

He adds: "Life outside ain't too hot. I want to do something cold and dramatic, forceful and dynamic."

The diary also describes his plans to stalk Mr Nixon's daughter, Julie, and her husband Mr David Eisenhower. The opening entry states: "Now I start my diary of my personal plot to kill by pistol either Richard Nixon or George Wallace. I intend to shoot one or the other."

Railway apartheid stays

From Kay Kennedy, Johannesburg

Strict apartheid will continue to be enforced on trains and in railway stations in South Africa, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, the Transport Minister, has told Parliament.

His statement conflicts with stated government policy to scrap what it terms "harmful" discriminatory measures.

Mr Schoeman is considered to be one of the most veritate (liberal) members of the Government and a bitter opponent of extreme right-wing Nationalist MPs who, under the leadership of Dr Andries Treurnicht, broke away and formed the Conservative Party.

Mr Schoeman's statement on railway apartheid is being viewed as a gesture to try to appease diehard Nationalists in by-elections in May in which Dr Treurnicht's Conservatives are attempting to unseat government members, particularly Mr Fanie Botha.

Despite Mr Schoeman's statement, railway apartheid is likely to be gradually eliminated. He told the opposition Progressive Federal Party, was that separate but equal facilities were needed on trains and at railway stations to prevent minorities from "being crowded out and trampled underfoot".



Floral tribute: Mr Zhao Ziyang, China's Prime Minister, being presented with a bunch of flowers at Christchurch airport yesterday at the start of his official visit to New Zealand.

China finds its army too far to the left

From David Bonavia, Peking

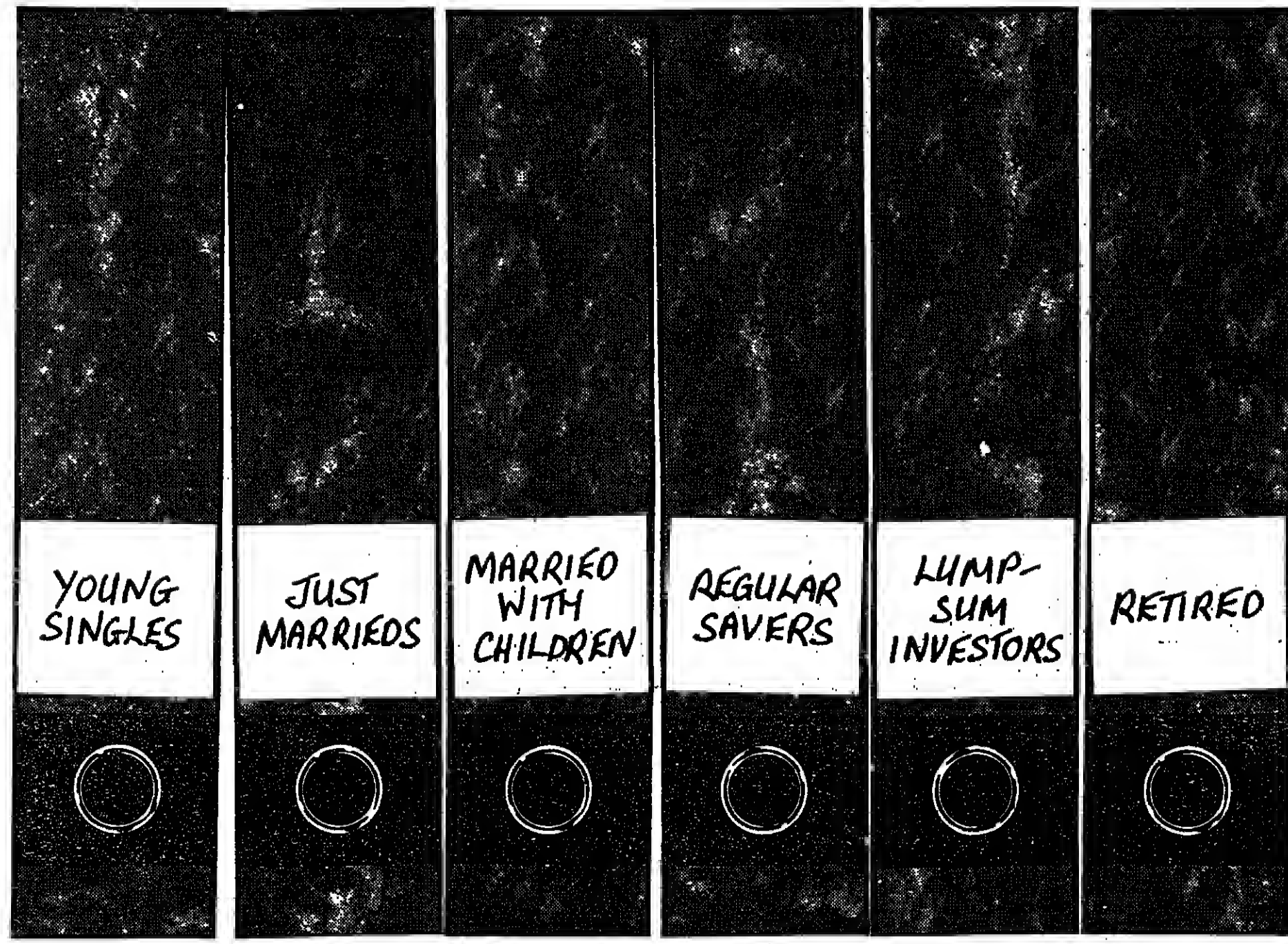
One of China's key military commanders has urged the armed forces to work harder to eliminate "leftist" attitudes which, he says, are harmful to the fighting spirit of the troops and the prestige of the Chinese Army.

General Li Desheng, commander of the important North-Eastern Military Region bordering on the Soviet Union, was quoted in the People's Daily yesterday as indicating that military opposition to political discussion and important of Western cultural influence was too severe.

The region's command centre, the city of Shenyang, was seen as a hotbed of leftism in the last years of Mao Tse-tung.

The article, reprinted from a political journal in Liaoning province, said good progress had been made in rooting out leftism in the Army, especially since the appointment of Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's elder statesman, to head the Central Military Commission in 1981.

However, it added that "some comrades" had shown leftist influence in their criticism of such phenomena as the "Democracy Wall" outburst of political wall posters in 1979, and of the craze for bell-bottom trousers and modern dancing in 1980, in attacks on liberal literary trends, and in blaming economic crime on relaxation of party policies in 1982.



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ABBEY NATIONAL 1982

**"WE'RE NOT JUST
IN THE BUSINESS OF
CREATING HOMES!"**



**"WE ALSO
CREATE JOBS!"**

NEW BUILDING COULD SPEARHEAD ECONOMIC REGENERATION. Sir Campbell Adamson, Chairman of Abbey National speaking at the Annual General Meeting on 13 April 1983 said:-

... at a time when unemployment is affecting an alarmingly high proportion of the country's workforce - including Abbey National membership - I should like to reflect on how our activities affect employment prospects. It has been argued that in the 1930's a great upsurge in house construction financed by building society money helped considerably to pull the country out of the slump. The forecast rate of starts this year may not represent a boom of those proportions but is an indication that the confidence needed to get the economy off the ground may be returning. It is hoped that our allocation of £750m for new house building will be an added incentive for companies, large and small, to expand their labour force. New and growing communities also bring new opportunities for local tradesmen and commercial enterprises, giving a welcome boost to mature businesses.

In inner city areas, I am not yet convinced that the full implications of Abbey National involvement in improving housing conditions has been grasped by the business world. These areas represent a large market where finance is now, perhaps for the first time, readily available. The success of our showhouse programme will be measured in terms of the impetus given to householders to improve their homes. This in turn will bring an expansion of employment opportunity and have a beneficial 'knock on' effect for the economy of the areas as a whole. Similarly, the role of Abbey Housing Association is important in providing new housing.

I think we can rightly say that we are not just in the business of creating homes. We also create jobs.

Among the other points made by the Chairman:

HOME SERVICE

Given that the building society industry can attract sufficient receipts, private housing starts this year could exceed 160,000. We have set ourselves an overall £3 BN lending target for 1983.

of this £750m will be set aside to finance new house building - the largest sum ever allocated by a building society for the housing industry. Of this £750m, £100m has been earmarked for inner city building projects.

Over 25% of our lending last year went into pre-1919 housing.

We have established a programme to buy run down properties in urban areas

to refurbish as showhouses. Our intention is to show local people what can be done with mortgage and improvement grant aid. We are currently involved in discussions in Liverpool to rehabilitate a large post war housing development.

Abbey Housing Association is continuing its activities on sites involving houses, flats and maisonettes, the

programme is approaching 1000 units completed or under construction. The 104 units planned at Tower Hamlets are now complete and the largest undertaking so far is in Bermondsey where 160 units are under way with 20% earmarked for assured tenancies. The Association has moved into refurbishing property involving flat conversions for sale in Reading. In general, the major obstacle to making more rapid progress is the acquisition of land in reasonable locations and on reasonable terms from local authorities.

Much has been said about the advent of Mortgage Interest Relief at Source - MIRAS. 100,000 people have asked for details on how a change to endowment would benefit them. The final decision rests entirely with the borrower. Our role is, as always, to offer advice and to ensure that the decision is made against the full range of relevant information.

MONEY SERVICE

Major reorganisation of the Society's computer technology is well under way to provide counter top terminals and automatic passbook updating, designed to speed up our payment and withdrawal facilities.

The most popular schemes proved to be the Seven Day Account and High Option Bondshares. Well over £1 BN was invested in each during the year with the Seven Day Account, which was a prime factor in our excellent market performance, now totalling more than £1.5 BN.

To these and other well known products in our range, we have added the Cheque-Save Account.

This does not mean the Society is

moving into the banking business and we are not interested in trying to capture any of the high volume cheque market.

Membership of the Junior Savers Club now tops 600,000 - 200,000 joined in 1982 alone. The Club is in many ways the first step on the home ownership ladder. In addition to providing newsletters and competitions, we are actually open in out-of-school hours unlike some competing institutions.

The Home Income Plan to provide elderly home owners with a fixed guaranteed income for life, aroused tremendous interest. So far business amounting to £8.4m has been completed.

1982 RESULTS

Total assets now exceed £12 BN - an addition of £2 BN during the year - representing a growth rate of 20.5%.

Our operations generated a surplus of £59 m although the Reserve Ratio dipped marginally to 3.6% through controlled use in a highly competitive environment.

Liquidity Ratio at 20.7% stood at slightly above the end 1981 figure.

A remarkable 1.8 million new investment accounts were opened, bringing the total number of membership accounts to 8½ million.

The Society lent more money on house purchase and improvement and to more people than at any other time in its history. Lending at £2.6 BN was an increase for the second year running of 28% over the previous year. Of the 150,000 purchasers assisted, 85,000 were first time buyers and over 16,000 were existing council tenants who purchased their house

outright. A measure of our continuing commitment to housing improvement is that we made £212m available to more than 78,000 borrowers - 50% more than 1981's record figure.

The opening of 29 branches brought the total number to 664, by far the largest network of any Society.

We now have 2,463 agencies, the most active and successful of these take on many of the functions of a branch. The direct sales force has been expanded to 160 people making a growing contribution to the Society's operations.

On each working day in 1982:

1. A new investment account was opened every 4 seconds.
2. A new mortgage loan was provided every minute.
3. The Society helped to provide a loan to a first time buyer every 1½ minutes.

For the year as a whole, this means an average of 20 mortgages and 243 investment accounts for each of the Society's 7409 full time staff.

**ABBNEY
NATIONAL
BUILDING SOCIETY**

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THE ACCOUNTS AND DETAILS OF
OUR HOME AND MONEY SERVICE
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Privy Council

Commissioners' opinion upheld ILEA is part of GLC Pensions fall within exclusion

Hargreaves and Others v The Church Commissioners
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Scarman and Lord Brightman
[Judgment delivered April 12]

Where a pastoral scheme was made for the union of two Church of England benefices the right to appeal against the scheme under section 5(2) of the Pastoral Measure 1968 was a genuine right of appeal on the merits and a change of fresh evidence might in an appropriate case constitute grounds for allowing an appeal and directing the Church Commissioners to reconsider the scheme, but where there was room for two reasonable opinions as to a particular course of action the church authorities would almost always be entitled to exercise their discretion in favour of the scheme unless the authorities made an error of judgment or that circumstances had altered so significantly since the making of the scheme that the church authorities ought to reconsider it.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council dismissed an appeal by Cousins Geoffrey Hargreaves, Mr Ted Puntis, Mr David Hornsby and Mr Roy Davies acting on behalf of themselves and some 400 other parishioners of Coppythorne near Southampton against that part of a pastoral scheme made by the Church Commissioners on June 2, 1981 uniting the parishes of Coppythorne and Minstead in the Diocese of Winchester which provided that the parsonage house of Minstead should be the place of residence of the incumbent of the parsonage. Coppythorne should be disposed of.

The appellants in person: Mr Spencer Maurice for the Church Commissioners.
LORD SCARMAN said that the

exercise of the right of appeal given by section 5(2) of the Pastoral Measure 1968 was to be exercised on the merits and was to be compared to an application for judicial review under Order 53 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, notwithstanding some superficial similarities. It followed that the appellants were entitled to have his appeal heard on its merits.

His Lordship emphasized that if objections to a scheme were genuinely brought forward and supported by evidence their Lordships' Board had to take them into account. It would not lose sight of the fact that a scheme was supported by responsible bodies within the Church of England but it was not enough for the Church Commissioners to rest upon general statements of support. Specific concrete and relevant objections.

Although in previous cases the Board had stressed that it would be slow to dissent from a scheme approved by the pastoral committee, the Bishop and the Church Commissioners and would require cogent reasons for doing so, the word "cogent" could be misleading. Appellants were entitled to make the truth that an appeal to the Board was an appeal on the merits.

The dictum in *Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Holy Trinity, Winchester v Church Commissioners* (unreported, May 6, 1974) to the effect that the Board would not refuse to confirm a scheme "unless for irregularity of procedure or on ground of evidence of error or of evidence as far as it went but was not a complete statement of the law."

The appellants in person: Mr Spencer Maurice for the Church Commissioners.
LORD SCARMAN said that the

In the present case, if the appellants were right, it was an essential part of their case that the gathering of evidence and the growth of hostile opinion in the parish since the publication of the draft scheme ought to have caused the Church Commissioners to consider the scheme afresh as far as concerned the residence of the incumbent.

The appellants' factual case was that Coppythorne was an active, bustling place with a growing population of 2,700. Community activities with clubs for young and old abounded. There was a vigorous Scout movement and two good Church of England schools. The church was well supported and the vicarage had been built some 13 years ago with the aid of voluntary contributions.

Minstead on the other hand was smaller. Its population was 710 and steady (or diminishing) general decline was taking place. The parsonage house was between two and a half to three miles from the developed area of Coppythorne. The appellants regarded it as illogical that the vicar should reside elsewhere than at Coppythorne.

In rejecting the appellants' case the church authorities had weighed the respective merits of the two places of residence and had chosen older than that of Coppythorne. The incumbent would be able to carry out his ministry effectively and contentedly. The Bishop of Winchester was finally of opinion that a future incumbent would be happier at Minstead.

If there was room for two reasonable opinions, the fact that the church authorities had adopted one would almost always be decisive against the other. In the present case on the facts two views were possible. The bishop could not be criticized for bearing in mind the welfare of his clergy as well as that of the inhabitants of his diocese.

Although the appellants had shown that there was a reasonable case for selecting the residence at Coppythorne that was not enough. They had not been able to show that the church authorities had made an error of judgment in reaching their decision to select Minstead or that circumstances had changed so significantly since Minstead was chosen that the commissioners and the bishop ought to reconsider that part of the scheme. The appeal should be dismissed.

Solicitors: Radcliffe & Co.

Inner London Education Authority v Department of the Environment
Before Mr Justice Woolf
[Judgment delivered March 30]

The Inner London Education Authority (ILEA), by virtue of section 30 of the London Government Act 1963, was the Greater London Council acting by means of a special committee in pursuance of its education functions (the council), but differently constituted from the Greater London Council pursuant to its non-education functions (GLC), was not accountable separately from the GLC to the Secretary of State for the Environment in respect of its own direct labour organization for the purposes of Part III of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980.

Mr Justice Woolf so held, in the Queen's Bench Division, dismissing the ILEA's originating summons against the Department of the Environment, seeking the court's determination on questions relating to the correct status of the ILEA for the purposes of Part III of the 1980 Act which provided for control to be exercised over the expenditure of local authorities using direct labour organizations (DLOs) for the purpose of carrying out their functions.

Mr J. R. Macdonald, QC and Mr Colin Beaumont for the ILEA; Mr Simon D. Brown for the Department of the Environment.

MR JUSTICE WOOLF, reading a reserved judgment, said that since 1965, the ILEA had operated its own DLO to carry out maintenance work to educational buildings in its area.

Part III of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 contained a code of sections designed to enable control to be exercised over the expenditure by local authorities using DLOs for the purpose of carrying out their functions.

Section 10(1) required every local authority undertaking construction or maintenance work under works of contract or by way of functional work to keep, in respect of each description of work specified in subsection (2) a revenue account and such other accounts as the secretary of state might direct. Section 12, in conjunction with

section 9 laid down what was to be contained in the accounts.

The ILEA contended that the accounting to respect of its DLO pursuant to the provisions of the 1980 Act should be separate and apart from the accounting to respect of other DLOs which were engaged in activities on behalf of the GLC.

The Department of the Environment, however, was convinced that the ILEA could not run a DLO without involving the GLC because it enjoyed no separate legal personality apart from the GLC.

Section 30 of the London Government Act 1963 which created ILEA, constituted ILEA as a statutory special committee and provided that in the inner London education area the local education authority was the GLC acting by means of ILEA. The membership of the ILEA differed from the membership of the GLC.

The ILEA was a committee of the GLC but did not exercise its jurisdiction as a delegate committee of the GLC nor was it a statutorily created corporation. Furthermore, section 30 of the 1963 Act made it clear that functions were delegated to the ILEA which the GLC could not interfere.

Part III of the 1980 Act referred throughout to the duty being on a local authority. Section 20 of the Act defined "local authority" as... a county council, the Greater London Council, a district council, a London borough council or the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

The absence of any reference to ILEA was striking since other provisions of the Act expressly provided that the ILEA was a local authority for the purpose of other parts of the Act.

The fact that in the same Act of Parliament express reference was made to ILEA made it clear that where special treatment was to be accorded to the GLC because of the ILEA that was done expressly.

Accordingly, while it might be sensible for the duty to be placed on the ILEA to comply with Part III of the 1980 Act, his Lordship was not able to construe the Act in a manner which would place that duty upon the ILEA. It might be a case where the Act required amendment.

Solicitors: Mr R. A. Lambart; Treasury Solicitor.

Barber v Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Group
Before Mr Justice Woolf
[Judgment delivered March 30]

Section 6(4) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, which excluded provisions "in relation to death or retirement" from the Act had a wide application covering anything which was part and parcel of the employer's system of catering for retirement, and including provisions in severance terms made on redundancy under which some employees were offered early retirement pensions under an employer's pension scheme and others were not.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal dismissed appeals by Mr Douglas Barber and Miss Joan Roberts, from decisions of two industrial tribunals in May 1982 and November 1981, dismissing their claims of unlawful discrimination on the ground of sex, against their employers, the Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Group and Tate & Lyle Ltd.

MR JUSTICE BROWNE-WILKINSON said that the questions which arose were - had the employer discriminated against the employee within the meaning of section 1(1)(a) of the Act in failing to offer him or her early retirement, if so, was the discrimination excluded from the Act by section 6(4) and if it was, could the applicants establish a claim under European law?

In the Tate & Lyle case the pension scheme provided for men to retire at 65 and women at 60. If either a man or woman retired before the normal retiring age but over 50 they were entitled to an immediate pension. The refinery at which Miss Roberts was employed closed and she was made redundant, aged 53.

Under revised arrangements all employees over 55 could obtain an immediate pension. In the case of a man he was being paid 10 years before his normal retirement age. Miss Roberts claimed that she was entitled to an immediate pension because she was within 10 years of her normal retirement age although under 55.

Section 5(3) of the Act provided that a comparison of cases of different sex under section 1(1) must be such that "the relevant circumstances in the one case are the same or not materially different in the other."

Mr Pannick for Miss Roberts submitted that the relevant circumstances included the numbers of years which she and the male employee with whom she compared herself were away from their normal retirement age for pension purposes ("age off pension"). He said that their actual age was irrelevant. Mr Clarke submitted the opposite.

In some cases the true age would be the relevant circumstance but in others (as for example in occasional travel by rail for old age pensioners) the age off pension would be relevant. The problem of stating any test identifying the cases in which actual age or age off pension was the relevant circumstance was insoluble.

For present purposes the appeal tribunal would assume in Miss Roberts's favour that the age off pension was the relevant circumstance.

The next question was whether her claim was excluded by section 6(4). Mr Pannick submitted that Miss Roberts was not retiring but was being made redundant.

There were three relevant decisions considered together by the Court of Appeal: *Roberts v Cleveland Area Health Authority*, *Garland v British Rail Engineering Ltd* and *MacGregor Wallcoverings Ltd v Turton* ([1979] ICR 558). The Court of Appeal held that the phrase "provision in relation to death or retirement" in section 6(4) was wide and meant a provision about death or retirement.

The *Garland* case alone went to the House of Lords and following a reference to the European Court of Justice the Court of Appeal decision was reversed. But there was nothing in the speech in the House of Lords disapproving the general approach by the Court of Appeal to the question of the construction of section 6(4).

On any view the decision of the appeal tribunal in *Garland* ([1978] ICR 495) was approved by the House of Lords and the test propounded by Mr Justice Phillips, that what had to be considered was whether or not what was being done was part and parcel of the employer's system of catering for retirement, would be applied in the present case.

The purpose of section 6(4) was apparent. Parliament in enacting the

1975 Act was seeking to eliminate all discrimination between men and women.

But it was faced with a widespread and inherently discriminatory practice deeply embedded in the social organization of the country, namely the differential in retirement ages between men and women. Section 6(4) was drafted to exclude claims arising out of the differential retirement ages. Any complaint based on the existence of contractual terms dealing with retirement had to be excluded since such terms would necessarily be linked to the differential in the retirement ages.

It was inescapable that the words "provision in relation to" retirement applied to the terms of access to benefits receivable on retirement and the circumstances under which the benefit was payable. Consequential provisions also had to be excluded. The appeal tribunal agreed with the Court of Appeal that section 6(4) had to be construed widely.

Although the provisions in the severance terms were not made on or because of retirement but on or because of redundancy, they undoubtedly related to retirement since the provisions in the severance terms complained of were provisions of the pension scheme and were part and parcel of the employer's system of catering for retirement. Accordingly Miss Roberts's claim fell within the exclusion contained in section 6(4).

If the European law on the subject was clear the appeal tribunal ought to seek to construe the 1975 Act so as to conform with the European law. However the position in European law was far from clear, and for the purposes of construction it was not possible to give effect to it.

Similar arguments had been put forward in Mr Barber's case. Mr Barber claimed that he was being unlawfully discriminated against under the employer's pension scheme when he was not offered an immediate pension on being made redundant.

A woman of the same age would have been given an immediate pension.

The same submissions on section 6(4) had been made and the same construction would be applied so as to exclude Mr Barber's claim.

The appeals would be dismissed and leave to appeal granted.

Solicitors: Irwin Mitchell & Co, Sheffield, Jaques & Lewis, Mrs S. T. Gill, Croydon; Mr J. D. Sabal.

Only the applicant's conduct is relevant

Sang Lee Investment Co Ltd v Wing Kwai Investment Co Ltd and Another
Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Scarman, Lord Brightman and Lord Templeman
[Judgment delivered April 12]

Where both parties had been deficient to good faith in connection with the formation of a contract between them, a court in deciding whether or not to grant specific performance of the contract had to consider whether there had been any relevant want of good faith, honesty or righteousness on the part of the party seeking specific performance and was not required to balance the misconduct of one party against the misconduct of the other.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council dismissed an appeal by Sang Lee Investment Co Ltd (the original vendor) from a judgment of the Court of Appeal of Hong Kong dismissing the original vendor's appeal from a judgment of the High Court who ordered specific performance of two contracts for the sale of land at Quarry Bay, Hong Kong to Bell Land Investment Co Ltd (the original purchaser) and Wing Kwai Investment Co Ltd (the sub-purchaser) in the sub-purchaser's action against the original purchaser in which the original vendor was joined as third party.

Mr Colin Ross-Munro, QC and Mr Robert Tang and Mr Anthony Neoh (both of the Hong Kong Bar) for the original vendor; Mr F. J. Millet, QC and Mr Benjamin Levy for the sub-purchaser; Mr Leonard Bromley QC, Mr Denis Chang, QC (of the Hong Kong Bar) and Mr Edward Parks for the original purchaser.

LORD BRIGHTMAN said that the only issue was whether there was

any reason to refuse a decree of specific performance to the sub-purchaser.

The original vendor had argued that specific performance being an equitable remedy was only available to a party who came to the court with clean hands and that since the sub-purchaser's hands were not clean, or, on a true view of the facts, less clean than those of the original vendor, the court should refuse to grant specific performance of the contract of sale.

The helpful United States authority *Wegham v Killefer* (1914) 213 F 168 emphasized that a party seeking a grant of specific performance on the ground of misconduct by the party seeking it had to show that the conduct itself was wanting in good faith and was "in the transaction" which was the basis of the suit.

In a case where there were alleged improprieties on both sides it was not a proper approach for the court exercising its discretion to grant specific performance to compare the misconduct on one side with the misconduct on the other.

The court should first decide whether there had been any relevant want of faith, honesty or righteousness on the part of the person seeking relief and should then decide whether as a matter of discretion and in all the circumstances, which might include any relevant misconduct on the part of the person resisting equitable relief, it was right to refuse to grant it. No balancing exercise fell to be performed.

On the facts, the claim by the original purchaser and the sub-purchaser for a decree of specific performance was unanswerable. The appeal should be dismissed.

Solicitors: Lovell, White & King; Biddie & Co; Withers.

Landlord wrong to assert lien over goods

Finlayson v Taylor
Before Mr Justice Croom-Johnson
[Judgment delivered March 30]

Where a landlord, who was a bailee of goods for his licensee, denied him access to the licensee's premises where the goods were stored, and wrongfully and without justification asserted a lien over the goods in respect of arrears of rent, his detention of the goods became adverse to the licensee and he was liable in detinue for that detention.

Mr Justice Croom-Johnson so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division in giving judgment for the plaintiff for £8,711 in his claim for damages for detinue and conversion of goods.

Mr Ivan Krollik for the plaintiff; Mr Peter Brumby for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE CROOM-JOHNSON said that the plaintiff had entered into a licence agreement with the defendant in respect of premises owned by the defendant. The plaintiff used the premises for storing his aerosol equipment. Access to the premises was controlled by the defendant who had the only key.

The plaintiff wrote to the defendant on several occasions asking to be provided with a key, but his letters went unanswered. The plaintiff often had to search for

the defendant to local public houses in order to gain access to the premises.

He therefore stopped paying rent. The defendant refused access to the plaintiff and padlocked the door of the premises. His solicitors wrote to the plaintiff claiming to exercise a lien over the goods stored on the premises for the arrears of rent.

The local council then obtained a compulsory purchase order for the premises which were demolished. The defendant moved the plaintiff's goods to new premises, and sold part of them.

The withholding of rent by the plaintiff was justified by the failure of the defendant to afford him access to the premises, and the defendant's assertion of a lien was therefore wrongful. The defendant was a bailee of the plaintiff's goods. By padlocking the door and thereby excluding the plaintiff from the premises, and by wrongfully asserting a lien over the goods, the defendant's detention of the goods became adverse to the plaintiff and therefore constituted an unlawful detinue.

The plaintiff was entitled to damages for detinue and conversion.

Solicitors: R. Nichols Marry, Walton-on-Thames; T. Richards & Co.

Prisoner made homeless by wife's conduct

Regina v Swansea City Council, Ex parte Thomas

A man who normally lived in a family unit with a woman and their two children could become intentionally homeless where that accommodation had been lost as a result of the woman's conduct while the man was in prison if there was evidence reasonably to suggest that he had acquiesced in the conduct complained of.

Accordingly, a housing authority might reasonably refuse that man's application under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977. Mr Justice Woolf held in the Queen's Bench Division on April 12, refusing an application for judicial review of the authority's decision.

MR JUSTICE WOOLF said that Parliament could not have intended that an authority should be required to rehouse a family unit against whom there had previously obtained an order for possession on the ground of nuisance and annoyance to neighbours committed by one member of that family unit.

Test certificate required for carrying scrap

Gibson v Nutter

A goods vehicle which carried cars to be sold as scrap was not a recovery vehicle and was therefore required to have a goods vehicle test certificate under the Goods Vehicles (Plating and Testing) Regulations (SI 1971 No 352). The Divisional Court (Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McNeill) said on March 30 when allowing a prosecutor's appeal by way of case stated. The defendant's vehicle was loaded with seven abandoned vehicles which were to be sold as scrap.

On the proper construction of the regulations, the exemption granted by Schedule 2 applied to a breakdown vehicle which was used for the conveyance of one disabled vehicle only.

A disabled vehicle was one which had broken down and a scrap vehicle was not a disabled vehicle. Accordingly, a goods vehicle used to transport a scrap vehicle or a number of scrap or disabled vehicles required a certificate.

Tender is the night

MODERN TIMES

A sideways look at the British way of life

Do you remember when city streets were rich in night-time braziers? Every hole in the road had its attendant and his coke blaze glowing through the perforations of a punched-through oil drum. The guard with a string round his overcoat lived in a hut and drank tea from a billy-can and seemed to be half way between a tramp and a policeman, custodian of a few tools and an inky-black gap in the pavement.

The world is now too expensive a place to allow such after-hours luxuries and such unlikely respectabilities: an old boy of that sort would now be snug in his old people's home, or sleeping rough and discarded under a railway arch. Those were still, just, the days when policemen called you sir whatever you looked like.

I have often enough been a night-tourist, and learned to appreciate the peculiar glamour of being out of kilter with the world, and having it to oneself. Bouncing home across London on the oldest bike in the world after rock 'n' roll in Hammersmith (woefully drunk and wobbly) at two in the morning, for instance.

But the nights are best when you've something to do. Best of all - most powerfully romantic - is to be at sea. One barbourmaster-cum-pilot once let me stay up with him while he buffeted towards an unlit rendezvous with a Polish freighter off the North-east coast. Suddenly a wave took us high and close against the great wall of its side, and we looked through a porthole into a little yellow-warm pool of tussled bunks and open magazines, and then plunged back down into the gloom and spray. The ladder was out on the wrong side, but my man took his salty, balletic leap and was crawling up the great steady ship as we rocketed off to lead the burbling way.

As a chauffeur I used to drive a distinguished man through the night: London to Yorkshire or Cornwall, or Heathrow to Suffolk, slipping down long strips of roads, counting the miles in tens and twenties with a pop station burbling inconsequentialities at just the volume to let the great man sleep his sleep. He might be important, but I was conscious: a bleary-eyed squire to his knight. They were nights spent battling against sleep; often it won for a second or two, a worrying business at 70 or 80mph.

Before that, security cars. One chilly night in 1966 my Alsatian dog and I guarded the drinks cabinet at Wembley, the night before England did something to Germany in football. Throughout, my borrowed dog feigned sleep on the back seat.

It was a marvellous job. There was a crazed night manager, with a house in Penge, or perhaps it was Croydon: we would meet for breakfast, all of us mobiles, at his house, at half-four or five in the morning. Distance on object in the empty, rain-slashed streets. We ate his immense fry-ups, gulped down tea, and dispersed to our beds before the traffic got going as the dawn kipped the sentinel sky over the South Circular. Driving back to town, the window open to blast away at sleepiness, sharp silver air punched away at one's lungs, raw with a nightful of cigarette smoke.

It was a proper night job. We didn't stay up late to go to work as mere jazz musicians do, nor were we remotely like the moonlighting night-clubbers having a collation at the all-night tea bar outside Caxton Hall, drunk and shrill against the gloom. Rather, we were shades who got up in the late afternoon and never knew what mood we were in. Our bodies never did quite forgive the muddle, and teatime never did become a wholly satisfactory breakfast time. We felt the world slipping away as we realized newspapers were not about our disrupted lives, and girlfriends gave up being out of step with our shattered biorhythms and found other lovers.

The night bled us in its maw. Now it is mostly the cries of the newborn or the demands of work that jerk me into near consciousness. And the night watches of an inner city sabbat suburb can be pretty hectic.

Noisy drunks, on the cusp between drinking bouts, cooed curiously dignified rows outside my window. Across the gardens, the strange, dimly-mystic West Indian and his fat white girlfriend are awake behind their improvised table-cloth curtain which reveals more than it hides. Their window is a sordid, inviting, ikon. Their light is on, as it is for a dogwatch hour or so every night. I'm supposed to be stealing a midnight march on a deadline, but instead I stare down at the seamy vignette.

The Latvian is at his window again: a grey figure, almost transparent, with a brush of white hair. The light from the bare bulb in his room scratches against the parcel-brown wallpaper. Sometimes his gapiing, wispy jaws work busily at some divine song. Is the nice old shrouding high-stepping, gaudy, nights in the Riga of long ago? Certainly his world is an interior one. It has oo comfort, and oo clocks.

It is becoming light ooow, and the children are shuffling around, smirring of their tumbled beds. The Latvian's white pigeon is wondering if this will be the new day when it will rejoice them. Over on Radio 2, beamed to the insomniac and inconsolable, Ray Moore will soon be widdling up his sweetly-careful dawn show. Wogan and bourgeois good sense will soon be ascendant.

Richard North



INSOMNIAC'S FRIEND
Patrick Lunt

BBC announcer, newsreader and presenter of Radio 2's You and the Night and the Music

I don't know where day and night is bridged: I treat it as a morning programme, though for the first hour or so it feels very late night. In spite of audience research and hundreds of letters you never know exactly who you are talking to: there's such a mixture - long distance lorry drivers, regulars who write in every week, security guards, one or two in hospital, the milkman and his wife, some who are just lonely and treat me as a pen friend. Some have no telephone, no relatives, no one. I think the distance and relative impersonality allows them to tell you things they wouldn't tell a neighbour. You get the odd nasty. Mostly you can read between the lines, say "sorry you slept badly". I have a more laid-back approach working at night. People are nicer then, because the world in general, even if it's going about its business, is less frantic.... The enormous benefit, personally, is that I have more daytime to spend with our son. (He is married to newscaster Jan Leeming). And the one thing you don't get in this job is a Monday morning feeling!



NIGHT DEALER
Berthold Oliner

Manager of the card room at a London club and an ex-international bridge player

Gambling is a service industry, so sure, the night people who work in it are nice, they have to be to last. If you lose at cards, even if it's for the moderators some that change hands in Kalooki, you suffer, bleed

inside a little. I tell the players "so tomorrow is another day, have a cup of tea, don't worry."

"Fifty per cent of our players are women, not young, many widows. A lot are lonely. They come to play cards in pleasant surroundings and to be sociable... I go to all the barnitzvaks and, unfortunately to a number of funerals as well. We have a good relationship with the casino downstairs but that's a different game. These gamblers are compulsive. The croupiers are in the

business because they think it's glamorous and well paid. They're not allowed to talk to the customers. In the card room we fraternise cautiously. Sunday night is the busiest of all. I have no car but most of the players live near me, offer me a lift home. Night-life plays havoc with your private life. What wife wants a husband at four in the morning? It's ruined four marriages for me, but my present girlfriend is a university lecturer who also works weekends, so that's fine.



ALL-NIGHT CABBIE
Tom Whitbread

Night driver for All London Radio Taxis

Business is down. People just don't go out now - the West End's like Blackpool night out - all the cab lights on. Margaret Thatcher and Mae the Hammer did that - closed down a good half dozen gambling clubs. And video's the biggest killer of all. Bad weather helps! I don't like day work, it's a different kind of passenger - the sort who's always late and blames the traffic jam on you. Night people have themselves. Obviously you get the odd bad one - billk is the word - the guy who doesn't want to pay. Or the one who is propping up the lamp post. Women drunks are the worst if she turns on the heater it's good night. God bless; and you can't touch her in case she shouts rape. "The old fashion villains were good as gold. Today's young ones are deceptive... You've got to be on the radio in case of trouble or if the wife wants to contact you. Lots of drivers' marriages break up because they never get to see the wife or kids. If you work proper nights you've got a better chance. It suits me and my family."

NIGHT NURSE
Debbie Button

Night sister at the Royal Free Hospital

There are three main reasons why I prefer working nights - apart from the fact that I enjoy nursing. One is that I get four clear nights off, the second is the extra money and the third is that I have more time for my patients. If they can't sleep I can have a chat, make them a cup of tea. They tell you their problems at night, especially on a women's gynaec ward.

"The disadvantages are that night work's very anti-social. You need a very understanding partner, not so bad if you're single. Holiday times are the biggest strain. And if you have a lot of agency courses there isn't the continuity of care, although fortunately this no longer applies here."

"I have thirty beds to look after and one or sometimes two courses to help me. You don't have time to get nervous on a big ward. You're in charge and you have to cope through there's a good security guard system if you need it. I do take my work home sometimes, worry about patients, if I've done it right. It drives my boyfriend mad but I can't help it."

Tomorrow: Friday Page
The woman behind Ulster's Ian Paisley



NIGHT PORTER
Charles McLachlin

Head night porter of The Stafford Hotel

I'm like a priest, sworn to secrecy. That's what a good night porter should be - someone who helps his guests to unwind, provides them with whatever services they require, with the personal touch... someone who listens when they want to tell you things but never tells. A lot are in it for mercenary reasons - a bad thing in a night porter. I can go back to the days when Walt Disney stayed here, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope... Most of our Prime Ministers know us, heads of state, Royalty, many famous people. This is a traditional hotel, British in the backbone, very high standards... I'd say my memory for faces is brilliant like a Chinaman. I never forget one. I never sleep on duty - need more when I'm off than I need. No, I don't mix with the other concierges, though most are friends of mine. In my spare time I like to study form - I applied for Julian Wilson's job you know but his educational background was better! And I haven't missed Wimbledon since 1960! I would be in the business if I had family ties. Like the priest... celibacy is better."

Judy Froshaug

FLAVIA CORKSCREWS GOOD FOOD GUIDE

I've always been against the use of custard pies as missiles...

Me too! Many's the time I've linked hands around a bombe Alaska.

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SINTRA SPECIAL

OH BLUE STEAK

SALADS

Don't you object to the way the Americans site their multi-story three-quarter pards here, right in the heart of our cuisine?

As the bishop said...

MOREOVER... Miles Kingston

Many of you reading this newspaper will be foreign travellers coming to Britain for the start of the holiday season.

Welcome! And sorry about the weather.

While you are here, you will no doubt want to see some of the great historic institutions of Britain. The Tower of London, Canary Street, Sir Roy Strogg. But there are other things for which Britain is famous which are not quite so tangible, such as our fighting spirit, our silence in public transport and our sense of humour, and you will no doubt want to taste these as well. Today I want to initiate you into the British sense of humour.

Some people say it takes a lifetime to appreciate the British sense of humour. This is nonsense! Ten minutes of study and practice is all that it needs. British humour has oow been analysed in our linguistic laboratories and we now know that the formula is so simple that it can be taught in a single newspaper column.

The way it works is this. A British joke comes in two parts. The first part is an ordinary sentence, such as "How would you like a bunch of fives in your face?" (an example of the British fighting spirit, by the way) or "I couldn't half do with a pint of bitter." (An example of British wit, by the way; the speaker means that he doesn't want a half of bitter, he wants a pint.)

Now, that by itself is not a joke. But when you add a second sentence to it, it becomes a joke. This second sentence comes from a stock of British phrases which have never, so far as I know, been written down, but which constitute fully half of any British conversation. The most famous one is, "As the bishop said to the actress." Others, in no particular order, are:

"I bet you say that to all the girls."

"That's the story of my life."

"I thought you'd never ask."

"Not so loud, or they'll all want one."

"And I'm the Queen of Sheba."

"It's what your right arm's for."

"No, but I saw the film."

All you have to do when an Englishman speaks to you, is select one of these phrases and answer him with it. Let's try, shall we?

"How would you like a bunch of fives in your face?"

"As the bishop said to the actress."

Not quite right, is it? That's because the first sentence provides no chance of a double entendre. It would have been different if he'd said, "I can't go oo much longer," or "These clothes make it very difficult for me." If the first sentence contains the word "it", you can almost always make a joke with "As the bishop said to the actress." Now, let's try again.

"How would you like a bunch of fives in your face?"

"I thought you would never ask."

That makes a good joke, doesn't it? Also, I bet you say

make British jokes, I think the best thing to do is send a request to the editor of Punch, a magazine which has been collecting them for 140 years.

When you start practising, remember that it may seem difficult at first, but one gets the hang of it after a while.

As the bishop said to the actress.

(I will deal with our fighting spirit and our silence on public transport some other time. If you want to sample the first, just say: "Come outside and say that again." For the second, when the man asks for your fare, do not say anything back to him.)

If you would like a full list of these sentences with which to

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 38)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35

ACROSS

1 Platform (6)
5 Verse (5)
8 In the past (3)
9 Paradise (6)
10 Rigorous (6)
11 Biting insect (4)
12 Beautiful (8)
13 Great fear (6)
15 Hollow space (6)
17 West African (8)
20 Tidy (4)
22 Rural (6)
23 Searched (6)
24 Finally (3)
25 Laster (6)
26 Alarmed (6)

DOWN

2 Music hall (5)
3 Beckoner (7)
4 Controller (7)
5 Haunting question (5)
6 Nest (5)
7 Narrate (7)
14 Tire out (7)
18 Card game (7)
19 Run into (5)
21 Detest (5)

SOLUTION TO No 37

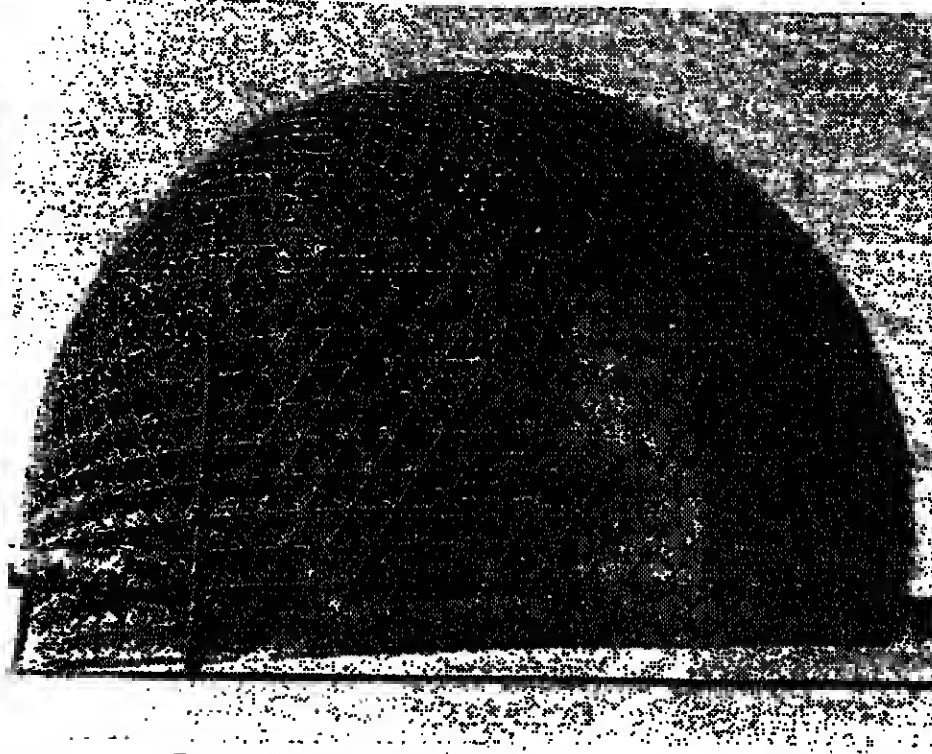
ACROSS: 1 Female 4 Droopy 7 Nine 8 Universe 9 Mackerel 12 Esp
15 Ocular 16 Cumber 17 Toe 19 King size 24 Trampoline 25 Flat 26 Osprey
27 Narrowly

DOWN: 1 Fund 2 Miniature 3 Educ 4 Drive 5 Oven 6 Posts 18 Kneel
11 Louis 12 Embuzzer 13 Fort 14 Soft 18 Orvis 20 Lilly 21 Green 22 Ensl
23 Stow

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BOOKS

High-tech Pied Piper



Buckminster Fuller's geodesic dome at Expo '67 in Montreal (left) and "Bucky" himself (right).

Bryan Appleyard assesses a method of saving the world

Critical Path By R. Buckminster Fuller

(Hutchinson, £12.95)

Every individual generates an ultra-high frequency electro-magnetic field. The polarity of this field alternates between positive and negative spending on the state of mind of the individual. Highly sensitive satellites will be used to read the dominant polarity of the entire population of the world. A total referendum or opinion poll can thus be conducted instantaneously. Aluminium spheres one mile in diameter will be constructed. When heated by the sun the air inside will expand to the point where enclosed air plus structure will be lighter than the surrounding atmosphere. The spheres will float skyward bearing aloft several thousand people whose relative weight on this scale would be negligible. Pigs, you might add, will fly. But nothing cools scepticism

is simply evaded. Few people now expect technology to save us but Bucky does and he is still up there, a high-tech Pied Piper luring the young into optimism and belief in limitless wealth and a conflict-free world. Ever the practical man, Bucky includes precise instructions as to how this goal might be attained. Essentially this is via his own variety of radical inventiveness. All inventions along the critical path must be so efficient and workable that their rapid adoption by the entire world must be inevitable. Behind all this are Bucky's metaphysics, hinging on the belief that our destiny is to be the infinitely efficient, infinitely materially well-endowed problem-solvers of our part of the universe. There is a God, scientifically verified by Bucky's July 12, 1979 version of Ever Rethinking the Lord's Prayer which begins: "To be satisfactory to science all definitions must be stated in terms of experience." Yet the reason we distrust visionaries who actually want to do something is that, from

Nuremberg in Brasilia, their visions have gone wrong. World views are all very well but historically they have either left people dead or as good as in some catastrophic urban development. Bucky's vision is entertaining, exhilarating and, at times, moving but Bucky might not be there to see it through and lesser souls would achieve lesser heavens. And there is one disturbing problem along the critical path - the scenery is lousy. Aesthetics are not part of the world view. Perhaps beauty is simply so much unnecessary baggage until we reach the Promised Land. Commenting on his automated cotton mill, designed in 1952, Bucky remarks: "We designed this factory to be completely automated. Inadvertently it became extraordinarily beautiful." This is, of course, good old fashioned functionalism, the radical innocence that believes the imagination and technology can be one as long as the latter is pursued with sufficient rigour. In Bucky's books they always are; in the real world, almost never.

Fiction A bit of ivory in a Big Apple

In Search of Love and Beauty By Ruth Praver Jhabvala

(John Murray, £8.50)

Flying to Nowhere By John Fuller

(The Salamander Press, £4.95)

Ruth Praver Jhabvala is of the Jane Austen school of novelists; she takes her little bit of ivory and works deliberately within its limits, creating a world where nothing matters beyond its confines. Just as the Napoleonic Wars barely impinge upon Mansfield Park, so the last fifty years, from the 1930s in the present day, are seen in "In Search of Love and Beauty" merely as milestones in the relationships of a tiny circle of characters. New York is the ideal setting - again, a little bit of New York, but instantly recognizable. Where else could one find this capacity for total self-absorption, this particular conglomeration of "sex, drugs, nerves and religion"? Mrs Jhabvala turns her ironic gaze on a small group of German refugees, who have comfortably transferred their wealth and adapted their social position to lofty New York apartments and "The Old Vienna" coffee house. Into their lives comes Leo Kellerman, "a yet undefined genius", who has met Freud and Reich and who leads them all for the next forty years in a tortuous country dance of sex and exploitation. He finally reaches his peak at the age of seventy, in the foundation of the Academy of Potential Development in a vast Charles Addamsish mansion in the Hudson Valley. And here, ever drawn by his personal magnetism - undeniable, however bogus - come Louise Sonnenblick and her family. Their outstanding characteristic is their ability to take themselves utterly seriously. Louise, once the pattern of a devoted wife and mother, throws herself so entirely into her affair with Leo, despite rejection and humiliation, that even when over seventy, when "it might have been expected that her only concern with her heart would be a clinical one", she thinks of nothing else. Her daughter Marietta, who has made the requisite Indian "trip" of the 1960s, finds her only real interest in her homosexual son Mark, who is in turn worshipped uncritically by his adopted sister Natasha. Peripheral characters are briefly drawn into the charmed, incestuous circle, as one member or another feels the urge for a new partner in the dance; but deep down they all know that the only worthwhile victims to grapple with are each other. The one person to break through is the splendidly anarchic Regi, Louise's oldest friend. Outrageously selfish, scarlet-wigged and trailing gigolos, she delivers home truths with relish and puns the absurdity of Leo's pretensions into perspective. Thank heaven for Regi. Without her this would be a dull book. Mrs Jhabvala has lost none of her old talent for acute observation, but accumulation of detail can deaden as well as engage the imagination. Flying to Nowhere, the poet John Fuller's first essay into adult fiction, is an extraordinary little book. "Little" is descriptive, not pejorative. This, too, is deliberately constructed on a small scale. The action, such as there is, takes place on an island, with a handful of characters, in a brief span of time. The setting is vaguely Welsh, medieval and Papist, but nothing is exactly specified. At the end the reader is left largely in suspense as to what has actually happened. Behind the Lilliputian framework loom questions of life and death, good and evil, innocence and corruption. An auspicious start for Fuller the novelist, a tour de force. I wonder how he will follow it up.

Tangerine-Flake Tory

The Purple Decades By Tom Wolfe

(Cape £8.95)

Richard Holmes reports on the thoughts of a Kandy-Kolored Conservative with a passion for the Right Stuff and his pilgrimage to the true heartland of Blueberry Pie

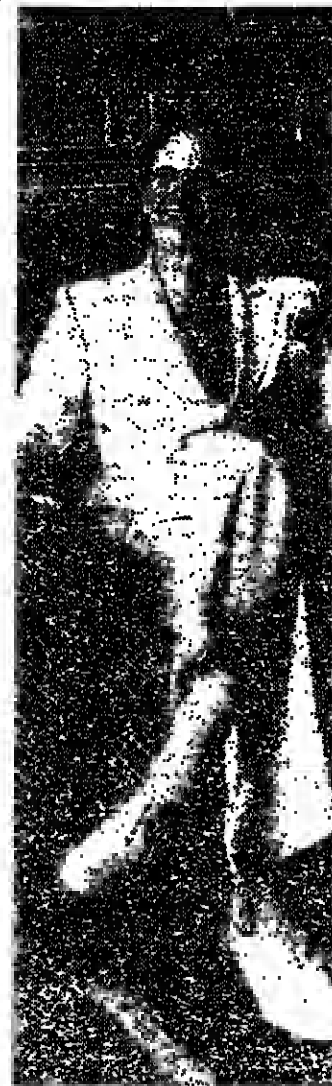
arc marvellously observed and reproduced (often mimed). The satire always move from exterior surface to interior value, status, ambition.

"The new liberated working man would live as the Cultivated Ascetic. He would be modelled on the BA-degree Greenwich Village bohemian of the late 1940s - dark wool Hudson Bay shirts, tweed jackets, flannel trousers, briar-wood pipes, good books, sandals and simplicity - except he would live in a Worker Housing project." So much for the visionary architects at Yale and Harvard.

But while the radical style has remained constant, the direction of the satire has become more conservative. This is the keynote of the collection. If there is one dominant theme in The Purple Decades, it is Wolfe's rediscovery of the All American Hero. (Europe and Britain slide steadily into the penumbra.) The Dandy is drawn to the Man of Action; the White Suit salutes - well - the Red Neck. We glimpse this early on in the piece on Junior Johnson, Stock Car Racer (1965), who represents the old true breed of small-town, Appalachian coolness and good ol' boy physical bravado. "The rural Southern code of honor and courage". It recurs more openly in The Truest Sport: Jousting with Sam and Charlie (1975), about a pair of US Navy fighter pilots flying hair-raising combat missions from a carrier into North Vietnam.

It reaches its apogee in The Right Stuff (1979), Wolfe's best and most sustained work, two long extracts, which follows the career of the Mercury Project astronaut and their induction into the secret "fraternity" of absolute bravery: "Naturally this was never mentioned. Yet there it was. Manliness, manhood, manly courage... there was something ancient, primordial, irresistible about the challenge of this stuff, no matter what a sophisticated and rational age one might think he lived in."

This moral pilgrimage through the Purple to the true heartland of Blueberry Pie, gives one much food for thought. Of course the Dandy and Daredevil have always been close allies (vide Brummell or Baudelaire); but Wolfe's growing passion for national virtue, for the "right stuff", as opposed to the "wrong stuff", is clearly indicative of something much larger, an historic mood powerfully at work there across the Atlantic. (Does President Reagan have the "right stuff" one wonders?) British readers may greet it with a slightly quizzical eyebrow; that Tom Wolfe would instantly raise into a slightly parabolic of mocking prose. Well, hell, Tom, there's no stoppin' ya.



Tom Wolfe

got a little ol' red light here on the control panel that's tryin' to tell us that the landin' gear's not... uh... lockin' into position when we lower'em... Now I don't believe that little ol' red light knows what it's talking about... Freeze. Moreover it is superbly visual. Wolfe writes like an anthropologist. (A "Marian" is the current term). Clothes, furniture, hair-styles, hand gestures, brand name food and drink, ways of walking, sitting, moving in and out of a room,

SANDY GALL

"Excellent... It is wonderful to see the picture that Evelyn Waugh painted in Scoop still seems true." David Holloway, Daily Telegraph "Engaging and entertaining... he has been a privileged front row spectator at some of the most convulsive happenings in this century." Stewart Dalby, Financial Times "A restering broth of a book, by a fine journalist." George Cole, The Standard

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And just published by Allen Lane - In Character, a collection of the best of his Sunday Times interviews, £6.95



Oscar winner

The Last Testament of Oscar Wilde By Peter Ackroyd

(Hamish Hamilton, £7.95)

What man can get inside the mind of any other man to reproduce, his secret thoughts and feelings - unless that other is a product of his own imagination? We may read Oscar Wilde's personal letters, see his plays, study biographies built on these and on lively descriptions by friends, relatives and enemies, yet conceivably not reach the man himself. So, in this absolutely stunning book, how near does Peter Ackroyd get?

For The Last Testament of Oscar Wilde is no less than a re-creation of Wilde during his last four months of life, clothing the bare recorded facts of a brief yet seemingly eternal period when, after visiting Italy and elsewhere as Sebastian Melmoth, he subsisted in Paris on borrowed funds. Slowly dying from his ear injury contracted in prison and tormented by nightmares, he consorted with youths and pimps; on the boulevards pointed out with scorn, in restaurants all too often requested to leave.

The whole journal, or apologia pro vita sua, is shot through with sensuous lyricism. There is a tale of the young prince fatally screened from reality (all these tales concern princes): Oscar, dying, seeks in such jewelled parables to drown the bleak present. There are fantasies like his mother's telling him, when "like a wounded animal" he sought refuge between trials, that his real father was the patriot poet Smith O'Brien: to which he ascribes his instinctive identification as an outcast, who

despises yet yearns for recognition. When he shows the journal to Frank Harris and Bosie, Harris dismisses it, tripping him on inaccurate details - and indeed there are plenty, no doubt intentional. Bosie abruptly says that though, like Oscar, it is "full of lies... absurd and mean and foolish", he should publish it. By this time it's no exaggeration to say that the reader will involuntarily think So of course he did, and here it is. Not only does Peter Ackroyd exert a mastery command of language and ideas that credibly evokes Wilde's sharp wit in epigram or paradox, but he captures the raw vulnerability of the man isolated behind his mask. During his miserable school-days, Wilde tells us - I mean Ackroyd tells us - he learnt the technique of disarming by caricature. In adulthood he formed the habit of lying to himself, pursuing Beauty and Aestheticism in the guise of clown-dandy until Beauty leads him to the tenderness of "Greek love". A paradox to the end, to expiate his cardinal lie he becomes a criminal-cum-martyr.

Of course questions crowd forward. For example, a complex web of reasons must lie behind Wilde's creative sterility in his last years. Yet we hear little of the content of his long prison letter to Bosie, from which De Profundis was eventually quarried, including that obsessive, if temporary, belief in the manifestation of Christ.

The book is a brilliant testament in its own right. Whether or not it is the real Oscar, the individual portrayed would have made a mark on society and literature. Perhaps it is as close to Wilde as we may hope to get.

Mary Cosh

Isabel Raphael

Crime Messy life and clever spies

Think Big, Think Dirty By William Garner

(Heinemann, £7.95)

John le Carré is not the only one writing espionage novels that do all the work of the novel proper and carry with them an extra edge. Here is William Garner, a lesser known figure whose ninth book this is, with a story (Lefty Whitehall spy-catcher and a Mole, in essence) that gives him ample and unstrained opportunity to consider with us what should be our attitude to the mess we call life. He tells it in a marvellous atmosphere of men manoeuvring, showing us thus what in large part life is, and he illuminates the telling with nicely pungent observations

("Morpurgo was beginning to feel like an ecumenical delegate, radically different in dogma but obliged, as his Christian duty, to be meek and charitable"). He also cootives to portray spy procedures, those ever-fascinating semi-facts, with impressive veracity, and his people are such as we can recognize in some depth while his descriptive writing is excellent ("The dangerous purple of hot temper and high living") and we are riding high. Not, alas, ultimately on the topmost plane. Garner is betrayed, I think, by his reliance at times on the old suspense trick of leaving the reader in the dark and in his final pages descends to purely literary mystification, though of a sort that would be enjoyable in a lesser book.

But his stature, his nearness to Le Carré/Deighton, is illustrated by a similar venture into spy fiction saying something, a good American first novel, Convergence by Jack Fuller (Hodder & Stoughton, £7.95). This is an attack on the philosophy of the CIA, old hat but a good deal subtler than most earlier ones, combined with a touching story of an innocent, well drawn indeed, involved in the dirty world. Fuller has something to put across (that convergence, not opposition, is the way), but though he has chosen fiction as the most effective means to do it, his actual writing is oddly rebarbative and the whole grips much less than it should. But it tries. Elizabeth in Hell, by David Fletcher (Macmillan, £6.50). Fletcher writes with a genuine intensity that etches the memory. Here a horror-battered Fleetspree becomes an ace gratuite murderer.

H. R. F. Keating

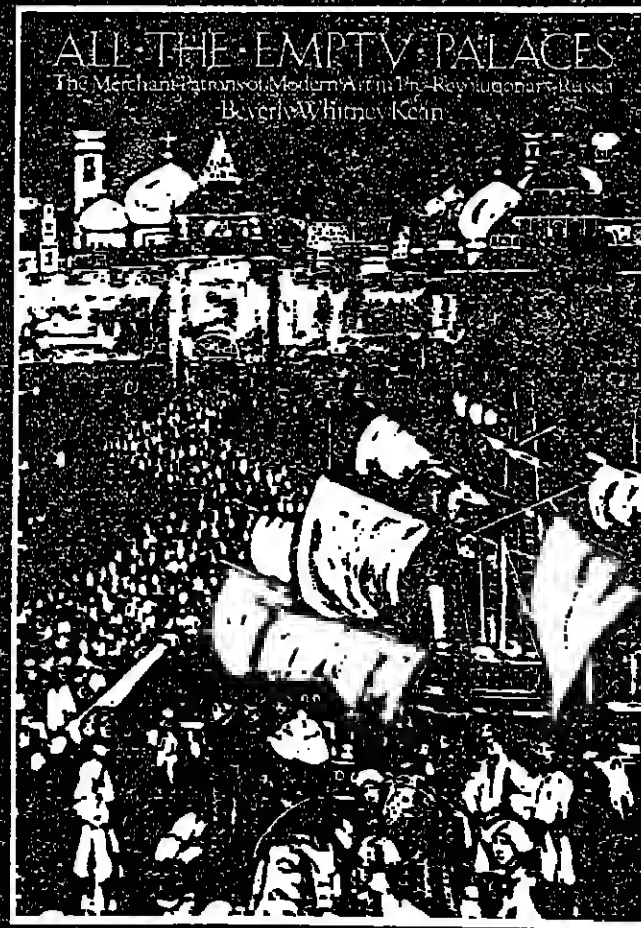
ALL THE EMPTY PALACES

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Dore Ashton writes, critic for the New York Times

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THE TIMES DIARY

Israel's new man

I confidently expect that the Israeli cabinet will this weekend confirm the appointment of Yehuda Avner as the new ambassador to London...

Artful doings

The £60m takeover battle over Southey's is not the only wrangle causing acrimony in the art world. Each year the Government gives £1m to help regional and university museums to buy works of art...

Savoy fare

To please Professor Arnold Bender, who says we are all saltaholics, and to launch a sodium-free salt substitute called Selora, which is to salt what Stork was to butter, the Savoy chef Anton Edelmann yesterday produced an entirely salt-free menu...

Timely quip

The extremely beautiful and charming Princess Michael of Kent gave what may have been the first royal interview to have been broadcast live when she was guest of the week on Woman's Hour yesterday. Asked about the critical press coverage she has received, she replied wittily: "I try to have a sense of humour... and only read The Times."

Consuming

After an acrimonious confrontation on Monday's BBC Breakfast Time programme Gerard Vaughan, the minister for consumer affairs, gallantly offered Elizabeth Filkin, the director of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, a lift from the studio in his ministerial car...

Buxton ho

The theme of this summer's Buxton Festival is Boccaccio, and flight to the hills for sybaritic entertainment. Not only will there be a retrospective of Pasolini's Boccaccio films and two operas, Verdi's Otello and Gounod's Le Comte Ory, inspired by Boccaccio stories, but the festival is recruiting a cast of one hundred to read the complete Decameron, ten chapters on each of ten days...

Get the drift?

Scots Hild to your snowballs! Colin Reid, lecturer in public law at Aberdeen University, counsels that my declaration that snowballing is now legal in Scotland was a mite premature. The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 has come into force for most purposes, and is intended to replace various local Acts and the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act 1892 to 1911...

PHS Susan London had received a letter from the Stalks Cuyllumbidge Hotel, Aylmear. "At long last," it says, "the first of our Christmas brochures have arrived, and encloses one. What, London wants to know, happened to the first chicken?" PHS

Irving Kristol reports on America's controversial line on El Salvador

The only way for Reagan

New York If Jimmy Carter had been elected president in 1980, what would US policy now be toward El Salvador? Does anyone really think that it would differ essentially from President Reagan's, which can be fairly described as "minimal, defensive intervention"?

Any president would find in this case he had very little freedom of action. He certainly would be reluctant to send in troops; Americans are having enough trouble governing themselves without trying to govern El Salvador. On the other hand, he is not going to sit by and watch El Salvador join Cuba and Nicaragua as another "Marxist" dictatorship supported by and allied with the Soviet Union.

It is conceivable, if barely, that an American president would take seriously the public suggestions of some Latin American countries, and of the West European allies, that he negotiate with the rebel forces, in the hope of establishing some sort of "popular front" government.

He would quickly find that to be a blind alley. If the rebels were interested in mere political participation, they would not have boycotted the last elections. A government that emerges from such

an election is not about to appoint guerrilla leaders to its cabinet, especially when these leaders have made it quite clear that they are interested in nothing less than total power, undisturbed by free elections. The Reagan policy in El Salvador is pretty much an inevitable policy for any administration. So why is it so controversial?

The answer, in part, has something to do with the spirit of demagogic opportunism that today envelops the Democratic Party when it is in opposition. That party, and especially its liberal wing, has come close to believing that it is the only legitimate governing party, and that its task is not merely to win the next election but to destroy any Republican administration that presumes to sit in office.

Such demagogic opportunism, however, would itself run the risk of affronting public opinion were it not sanctioned and legitimized by a set of ideas that are unexamined truths for influential sections of the media and academia. In the case of El Salvador, there are two such ideas that cloak irresponsibility with the mantle of statesmanship. The first is a simple-minded, "progressive" economic determinism. The second is a self-inflicted verdict of guilt when confronted with militant, left-wing, egalitarian ideologies.

This economic determinism, so ingrained a mental habit that even conservative politicians resort to it without a second thought, is

revealed every time we encounter unrest or turmoil or subversion in a poor country. We immediately start thinking about the nation's poverty as being beyond doubt the "fundamental cause" of the political turmoil.

Practically every country in Latin America - and El Salvador most notably - has a long history of political instability, social unrest, and economic ineptitude. Why is this so? Why has it been so for more than 150 years? No one seems able to come up with a plausible answer. All one can say is that the traditions - political, religious, cultural - that shape Latin American thinking and behaviour are such as to make it exceedingly difficult for the countries of South America to proceed along the line followed by North America and Western Europe.

Whatever decent solution might exist to the internal problems of Latin America lies in the womb of time. We can offer economic assistance, of course, and where political stability exists, economic aid can be helpful. But political stability is the essential prerequisite. This is most especially and obviously the case when the government confronts a well-organized guerrilla insurgency, since a major goal of the insurgents is, precisely, to destroy the economy. This is exactly what is happening in El Salvador.

The other main ideological problem derives from the fact that when faced by a political opposition

that asserts a claim to "social justice" - a presumptive economic egalitarianism enforced by political coercion - Americans immediately feel defensive and impotent.

We are so disoriented by that appeal to "social justice" that we immediately, in our minds, begin to delegitimize the existing regime by wondering whether it really does have popular support, or by focusing on the various inadequacies (eg, military incompetence) and sins (eg, violations of human rights) of that regime. The inadequacies are real enough, as are the sins. But somehow we do not get similarly upset when we see such inadequacies and sins in left-wing regimes, nor do we spontaneously seek for reasons to think better of the insurgencies they have to cope with.

The issue in El Salvador is just about as clear-cut and simple as any foreign policy issue can be. The options are limited, the choice would seem to be obvious. What is absurdly complicated, to the point of being self-destructive, is the state of mind with which so many influential Americans approach this issue.

The author is Professor of Social Thought at the New York University Graduate School of Business. This article first appeared in The Wall Street Journal.

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Ronald Butt

Yon Cassius, Foot's unlikely hero

The programme for the Royal Shakespeare Company's new production of Julius Caesar (which the critics do not exactly urge us to rush to see) is eccentric in typographical design and ingenious in content. Julius Caesar is a political play, and as though to compensate the audience for any disappointment with what happens to it on the stage, the programme is embellished with (among much else) political comment.

"Eminent contemporary political figures" are asked the following A-level question: "Were the conspirators right to have assassinated Julius Caesar for the public good, in order to prevent the creation of what seemed to them a virtual dictatorship?"

Six of the seven replies were judicious in content and would satisfy the examiner's requirement that the question answered must be the question asked. General Sir John Hackett concluded that the question involved in this assassination was essentially the same as that which would be involved in deciding to launch a nuclear attack if the public good seemed to require it and confessed: "I do not know the answer."

Sir Harold Wilson thought it was not "appropriate" to assassinate a national leader; Mr Neil Kinnock, and Mr Peter Jenkins of The Guardian, thought Caesar's assassination unjustified because it ushered in a worse dictatorship than Caesar's. Mr Enoch Powell, in a neat reference to the plot of Essex against Elizabeth I, observed contentedly: "How happy England, with legitimate to be its shield against impending perils!"

In this galaxy of sober comment, however, one contribution shone with a quite peculiar light, illuminating the commentator far more than the subject. Mr Michael Foot replied: "Cassius is the real hero of the play, the real man of flesh and blood and feeling, the true, responsible, far-seeing revolutionary. Maybe Shakespeare himself wanted to call this, the greatest of his political plays, by its proper name. But some theatrical agent or promoter stepped in and insisted that the title Julius Caesar was necessary for box office purposes."

Thus, alone of the respondents, Mr Foot dodges the question. He escapes by lauding a hero-figure. Cassius becomes a kind of Roman Nye Bevan. This kind of escapism is, of course, characteristic of Mr Foot's political utterances generally and it is of more than literary significance. It arises from the split political personality of a man who, in his private political fantasies, broods favourably on revolutionary scenarios elsewhere that his other parliamentary and law-abiding self could never countenance at home.

Still more illuminating, however, is Mr Foot's nomination of Cassius as "the real hero... the far-seeing revolutionary." (Did Cassius foresee Philippi and the harsher domination of the Caesars that these events precipitated?) It is the admiration of one man with a lean and hungry look for another. The parallel is quite startling. Like the Cassius of Caesar's description, Mr Foot "reads much; he is a great observer..."

Such men as he be never at heart's ease. Whiles they behold a greater than themselves, And therefore are they very dangerous. Most people's politics are probably determined more by genetic predisposition than they care to think, and Mr Foot's are those of an instinctive anti-politician-that-be-man, an overturner. He finds it hard to pay respect to the existing order. To

a man with this kind of pride, Shakespeare's, if not the historical, Cassius who... had as lief not be as live to be In awe of such a thing as I myself would naturally be appearing.

So to such a character he gives heroic status, even though Cassius makes false propaganda to win Brutus to his cause: I will this night, In several hands, in at his windows throw.

As if they came from several citizens: Writings all tending to the great opinion.

That Rome holds of his name... What is a little trickery of this sort compared with what goes on inside the Labour Party? What is Cassius's bitter tirade against Caesar compared with Mr Foot's notion of truth that made him say of Mrs Thatcher: "She worships the profit motive, the money test. Nothing else, no other value in life, is allowed to count."

Yet, of course, there is a difference. Mr Foot (even metaphorically) is not prepared to wield the revolutionary dagger to usher in the social revolution that will make all men equal and create a fine new order. He will not abandon constitutional ways, for he is a parliamentarian, content to admire great revolutionaries from his armchair. That is his and our safeguard. As for making Cassius his hero, that you might say is no more than literary jeu d'esprit.

But it is very careless jeu d'esprit, and Mr Foot is habitually more careless about facts and consequences than politicians who wish to be taken seriously ought to be. In this case, he has little excuse. He is essentially a bookish, when not a ranting, man. The old hippophile is the name that Mr Alan Watkins has coined for him. So he should be aware that Shakespeare's Cassius is a man of envy and resentment, a man who had to live to enjoy power would probably (as the great quarrel with Brutus over Cassius's bribery shows) have been corrupted by it.

The same is true of the historical Cassius. If Cassius had defeated Octavian and Antony, would the empire of the Caesars have been better than that of the Caesars? Why does not Mr Foot know that every new order (most conspicuously Lenin's) has been corrupted by power and that the case against his socialist new order is that in the modern world it gives greater power to the state than any other system.

The historical Cassius killed Caesar out for institutional liberty but to restore the power of the aristocratic order. Apart from proud dislike of the existing power, he had little in common with Mr Foot's aspirations. But they did share one thing, Cassius seemed no more aware of the consequences of his deed than Mr Foot worries about the consequences of inflating the economy with £10,000m, taking us out of the European Economic Community, putting up protectionist shutters and unilaterally renouncing nuclear defence.

Caesar's death by 23 wounds only made matters worse. But they were bad anyway. "Debauched by demagogues and largess, the Roman People were ready for the Empire and the dispensation of bread and circuses" was the comment on these events by that great authority, Professor Ronald Syme.

Fortunately, the British people do not seem to be ready for the not-dissimilar bread and circuses offered by Mr Foot's Labour Party. Fortunately, also, Mr Foot is really no Cassius. The irony is that in his own party he is more likely to be metaphorically knifed than knifing.

Susan Marling

Seeing red over the Blues

Joseph Horowitz is a hard man to shock. A composer and professor of music at the Royal College gets to hear some strange noises. Electronic music produced by hitting the exhaust pipe of a 1959 BSA motorbike with a rusty spanner, tunes which have much in common with the rumbling of a full stomach, concertos for a bagpipe and Bex Bisse! Shampoo-Master. But what I took him case as a genuine surprise.

From the Redifussion music factory in Orpington I had been given a six-pack of background music cassettes. Twenty-four hours of neatly categorized numbers. Red, Green, Blue and - wait for it - Beautiful Music. Listening to it all was like eating chips with gloves on. What musical chemistry could produce such blandness? I packed the cassettes in a violin case and went to see the master.

We began with some Green. Green is middle of the road. Very suitable for foyers and lifts and other places where there's a minimal chance of an attentive audience. Harowitz gave the first tune, "Londoo Town", his full attention. He frowned and made little tapping movements with his foot. "This music has been made by somebody very clever," he said eventually. "It's a sound which reminds you of music but isn't. An excellent engineer has taken a chord sequence and just devised a pattern of harmonic variations. There's no pronounced melody and beat that you can follow and the chords hang on in a way that it's difficult to tap your foot to it."

"One of the first jobs I ever had at the Bristol Old Vic. I had to compose background music for the interval. I nearly lost the job because I couldn't write music that people wouldn't listen to. It's very difficult."

"Most composers have something in their music which makes it exciting or disturbing so that you can't help but be involved. This, you see, has had every idiosyncrasy removed. Remarkable. As I say, it's anti-music. But I pay tribute to the gangster who created it."

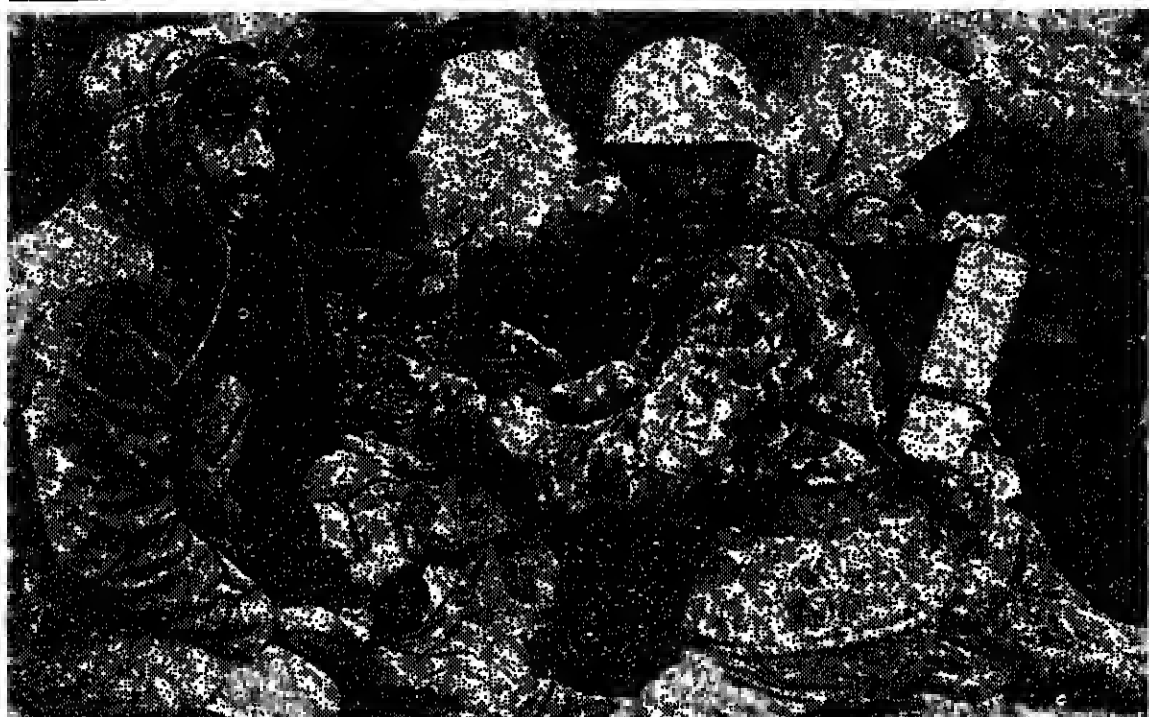
I was just getting going on the Red (the "big beat sound, with brass percussive rhythm and discreetly spaced vocals") when we were interrupted. Before I could switch the machine off another music teacher caught a few bars of "Get Up and Boogie" and narrowed her eyes. "You can't imagine what a torture it is when they play that stuff in restaurants. You see, if you're a musician you have to listen."

We drove on into the Blue. "Romantic piano and strings with relaxed rhythm predominating." Only the titles of the numbers were faintly ironic: "There's a Kind of Hush", "How Long Has This Been Going On?" and "Music Speaks Louder than Words". I asked the professor if any of the great composers' work would stand the Green or Blue treatment. "No," he said. "I think a bad pupil of Vivaldi would be the nearest in classical terms. This is music arranged by uninterested people but beautifully engineered. It's as though a computer had written the verse inside a birthday card and cut out all the emotive words."

I packed my cassettes away and could hear some students practising jazz. There was a piano and saxophone. I wondered if they would ever try to get a holiday job in a hotel and be turned down in favour of a Micro 2 endless loop machine stuffed to the gulleys with Blue. It wasn't until I was out of the building that I noticed from the publicity material that Redifussion's telecode is SONATA. Joseph Horowitz would have liked that.

Chronology of the Iran-Iraq war

- October 1979: Iraq demands abrogation of 1975 treaty delimiting border with Iran in disputed Shatt-al-Arab waterway; calls on Iran to evacuate strategic islands at mouth of Gulf; demands autonomy for Iran's Baluch, Kurdish and Arab communities. December 14-March 29, 1980: Border skirmishes. April, 1980: Thousands of Shis, Muslims - supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini - departed from Iraq, Khomeini calls for overthrow of President Saddam Hussein. September 21, 1980: Major Iraqi offensive: oil refinery centres of Khormashahr captured, Abadan surrounded. January 1981: Iranian counter-offensive. Four months fighting lead to virtual stalemate. September 1981: Abadan siege lifted. May 1982: Khormashahr recaptured after Iranian spring offensive. June 1982: Iraqi forces withdraw from Iran. July 1982: Iranian army crosses into Iraq. Heaviest fighting of war. Total deaths on both sides since it began put at 150,000. February 1983: New Iranian offensive fizzles out after early reverses. April 1983: Iraqi protest at continued shelling of border towns.



Inside war-torn Iraq: will Saddam be the last victim?

The war between Iraq and Iran, now two and a half years old, has settled into a stalemate. Iraq's armed forces can contain the occasional Iranian offensive but cannot regain the military initiative. Peace attempts run into the obstacle of Ayatollah Khomeini's passionate antipathy to the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, and his insistence on Saddam's removal as an Iranian war aim.

The Ayatollah evidently believes that if he keeps up the pressure long enough, Iraq is bound to crack. He may not be wrong. The Iraqi president is now increasingly dependent on Arab paymasters who would gladly ditch him if they could be sure of a stable peace. He is seeking desperately to broaden his domestic political base and has made overtures to a wide range of opposition forces proposing a national coalition government.

These forces include leftists, democratic nationalists, Islamic groups and - perhaps most significantly - Kurdish parties involved in a long-drawn-out guerrilla struggle in the northern mountains. The Kurds are Iraq's biggest opposition group. After dark their guerrilla forces control large areas of northern Iraq. In the past President Saddam's regime has been ruthless in its treatment of opposition, especially Kurdish opposition. That he should now offer power-sharing to a group like the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which has played a leading role in the Kurdish guerrilla struggle, suggests that he is indeed a desperate man.

President Saddam is going ahead defiantly with a few prestige projects like the \$2,000m mosque in Baghdad. Yet public servants' salaries, including those of officers, have been cut back 20 per cent. Inflation is running at around 50 per cent. Payments to Iraqi contractors are reportedly being postponed for two years. Iraq is seeking to reschedule nearly 2,000 million dollars of payments due this year on its total debt of about \$7,000m. Foreign reserves have fallen from more than \$30,000m before the war to less than \$5,000m today. The present shortfall in revenue is estimated by western analysts to range from 500 to 900 thousand million dollars a month. The regime has even resorted to selling public sector industries to private capital. The key question is what position the Gulf states will adopt in the present financial crisis. Hitherto they have spent \$46,000m in loans to Iraq. Saudi Arabia is believed to have given an extra thousand million dollars a month plus an additional amount of about 6-7,000 million dollars in January. This last payment seems to have come in the wake of a joint plot by Iran and Syria against Iraq. The plan was, allegedly, for an Iranian attack to coincide with a Syrian move to cut the Aqaba-Baghdad highway at their common border in the Mafrqa area. Because of the involvement of Syria and Libya, both allies of the Soviet Union, the western camp closed ranks behind the Iraqi regime. Saudi Arabia provided finance. The French even opened their military stores to the Iraqi army in addition to giving credit to French companies operating in Iraq. Reports are that this latest hand-out exasperated the Saudis, who are

growing increasingly restive. Even the Gulf states cannot go on spending such sums indefinitely.

As the financial noose has tightened in recent months, so President Saddam was led to make small political offerings to the Kurds. Kurds drafted into the army have been allowed to serve in Kurdish areas, Kurdish prisoners have been released and thousands of Kurdish deserters given amnesty. The reason for these concessions is that the northern Kurdish areas of Iraq have been slipping from his grasp. The countryside there is out of government control from dusk onwards. Like Lilliputians tying down Gulliver, the Kurdish guerrillas have effectively trussed up the regime through many small-scale raids and operations. Anyone the Kurds may consider worth kidnapping - government officials, foreign engineers - travels in convoy under military escort. President Saddam needs to neutralize the Kurds, at the very least. It would be even better for him, of course, to rally their support.

The dilemma of whether to join a coalition regime is particularly perplexing for the Kurds. They have learned from experience not to trust others. When they have no real guarantee that any future regime in Baghdad will do any better by them, can they really afford to ignore the bait of autonomy that President Saddam is dangling? Any autonomous Kurdistan with a measure of internal democracy existing alongside an autocratic regime in Baghdad is like an elephant inside a boa constrictor: fundamentally indigestible. And one

former head of Rank's now-defunct production programme, is cautious: "The response last year, after Chariots, was virtually all. The finance will only come if the City can see exactly how they're getting their money back, and we haven't got the marketing strength to ensure that yet."

With foreign TV sales and careful marketing, a modestly-budgeted film can now hardly lose money. And on a major project like Gandhi, which cost \$20m, the figures can be mouth-watering: with the \$17m sale to Low Grade and his worldwide cinema release, Gandhi should make a net profit of at least \$30m. So why doesn't investment pour in? At the top end of the sale, backers were alarmed by the collapse of Lord Grade's huge programme of "international" films two years ago. It has been said that the British film industry is a marsh infested with the buzzing of pressure groups, amateurs, and professional mourners. Alan Parker and his colleagues in the Directors Guild fill into none of those categories. "I believe we can crack the world market," says Parker, "if only we can get government support in our struggle with piracy and the TV companies. With that support we could stimulate the City investment."

But the question remains: will the City invest in the rapidly changing film business? Clive Parsons (producer of Gregory's Girl): "At least the awards will focus people's attitudes here on our successes abroad." Jeremy Thomas, producer of two of Nicolas Roeg's pictures, feels the Oscars "can only do good on the finance side. The industry has been considered a failure, wrongly, for too long." But Tony Williams,

Helga Graham

Building on the glory of Gandhi

In some countries Goldcrest, the company that nurtured Gandhi, is selling David Puttnam's First Love TV series for cinema release. Goldcrest sales chief Bill Garvin recently explained that "everything has changed in the space of 18 months, simply because American cable is now devouring everything we can supply, and paying larger sums than we ever imagined in the process". In Britain, Redifussion, the TV rentals company involved in cable development, have already invested £1.5m in film and TV production, with the promise of more to follow. But the question remains: will the City invest in the rapidly changing film business? Clive Parsons (producer of Gregory's Girl): "At least the awards will focus people's attitudes here on our successes abroad." Jeremy Thomas, producer of two of Nicolas Roeg's pictures, feels the Oscars "can only do good on the finance side. The industry has been considered a failure, wrongly, for too long." But Tony Williams,

Building on the glory of Gandhi

at a minute fraction of their real cost. First to protest was the Association of Independent Producers (which includes David Puttnam). Since then, the new 200-strong Directors Guild of Great Britain has called for a reversal of government policy. The Guild is also banking on an audio-visual revolution in the near future with the advent of cable, say, television, cinema and theatre will flow together both as platforms for artistic expression and as sources of funding.

In December, Lord Grade set up a new company which would put stars such as Glenda Jackson and Albert Finney on the West End stage and then broadcast the performances abroad on cable. Now Lord Grade, as part of the US Embassy Communications company, has bought the US pay-TV and cable rights to Gandhi - a deal that went through the week before the Oscars and is worth a reported \$17m about £11m.

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مذاهب من راجل



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

CHICAGO

The city Martin Luther King called the most segregated in the North has a new black mayor. "The whole nation is watching," Mr Harold Washington said yesterday, "as Chicago has sent a powerful message." Indeed this urban political spectacle has attracted an international audience, made up in part of ever-watchful anti-Americans greedy for evidence of social ills, in part of America's friends, who have been at once fascinated and repelled by the overt racism and violence of the contest yet somehow exhilarated by the vigour of municipal politics in a great city. And what a contest. Mr Washington is a lacklustre former Congressman and a tax evader whose canvassing in a local prison was greeted by one newspaper as "homecoming". His opponent's disabilities began with the fact that he is a Republican in a city where they weigh Democratic votes; Jewish in a city of Polish and Irish anti-semitism; a former patient in psychiatric hospitals, and perhaps the least disadvantage - a beard-wearer in a city where, in 1968, Mayor Richard Daley's police had only to see facial hair in order to draw their nightsticks.

The message from Mr Washington's election is mixed.

It speaks of the disarray of the machine bequeathed by Mayor Daley - thanks to Mr Washington's predecessor Mayor Jane Byrne - and the belated rise of black political organization of a type that has carried blacks into city administration across the North East of the United States, in parts of the South and in California. The election was a delayed psephological expression of the "white flight" that has made Chicago a city of residential apartheid.

Yet there are grounds for optimism that Mr Washington will be able to establish himself. He is no radical, not even a black leader in the mould of the Rev Jesse Jackson; it is likely there will be accommodation with the remnants of the Daley machine, for it knew only one motto and that was "power". The recent tenure of the mayorality in Los Angeles is instructive here: Tom Bradley, a mediocre performer in some regard, constructed a useful alliance with city business leaders which on the evidence of the forthcoming Olympic Games has served the city well.

For American politics at large the message from Chicago has two parts. One is that the election presages no rise of black political influence in Washington, D.C. - the reverse. As blacks

lose their place as the premier racial minority in the numerical sense in the United States to the Hispanics so their political leverage in the federal government declines: the black caucus in Congress is in decline. Blacks in Washington still have some veto power but during an administration indifferent to their political aspirations (witness the President's misguided attempt to roll back the Voting Rights Act) and their economic plight (black unemployment remains stubbornly some nine percentage points above that for white males) they make scant positive contribution to policymaking. Even a Democrat president as liberal as Mr Walter Mondale might be as unlikely to listen to black political lobbyists with undivided attention: other vocal minorities now press themselves into the Democratic Party's coalition.

Yet Mr Washington's election shows clearly the vital role of black political organization at local level; in some of the black city wards he received 94 per cent of the vote which has been boosted by active registration campaigns. Black voting registrations could, by the time of next year's presidential primaries, be at an all-time high - a fact for both parties to weigh.

WHEN JUSTICE MISCARRIES

No country's system of trial is free of the occasional miscarriage of justice. The English adversarial system with its reliance on what happens in court on the day of trial, is perhaps more prone to achieving an incorrect result than the continental inquisitorial approach, in which far more investigation is done before the case reaches court. In logic, it is as much of an injustice that a guilty defendant goes free than that an innocent man is convicted, but we are struck more deeply by the consequences of unjust conviction especially when it leads to imprisonment.

The English trial system is weighted in favour of the accused. It insists on an extremely high standard of proof before there can be a conviction, and there are a number of evidential safeguards within the trial procedure. Yet mistakes happen - whether because of human failing or perversity, or poor advocacy, or mere accident. So an appeal procedure allows victims of alleged injustice to test the verdict against them. Sometimes, there is even a second tier of appeal.

Even so, injustices slip through uncorrected, and they

are sometimes appalling. Men have spent months, sometimes many years in prison because someone wrongly identified them, or a key witness was not called at the trial, or an apparently truthful witness is subsequently found to be corrupt, or just because the jury believed the wrong person. Occasionally, the efforts of the organization Justice, or of individual writers like Mr Ludovic Kennedy, or campaigns in newspapers, draw attention to miscarriages and, with luck, they are remedied. Justice believes, however, from its experience, that there are some 200 to 300 relatively serious miscarriages of justice a year. Only a small proportion of them are righted.

Last November, the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee proposed a safety net, an independent review body which would have the power to consider, and if necessary investigate, those cases that fell short of convincing the Home Secretary to grant a pardon, and did not provide new evidence of the kind that would persuade the Court of Appeal to entertain a new appeal, but were nevertheless felt to contain some indication that injustice might have occurred.

The Government has now rejected that proposal, but in terms which demonstrate acceptance of the possible extent of the problem and a willingness to try to close the gap through which the unfortunate victims fall. The Government's solution is couched in the language of intent, rather than action: "The Home Secretary will in future be prepared to exercise his power of reference (to the Court of Appeal) more readily" and the Lord Chief Justice "sees room for the court to be more ready to exercise its own powers to receive evidence, or order a retrial".

The Government is right to prefer that miscarriages of justice be corrected through a judicial, rather than an extra-judicial process. It is too optimistic, however, to believe that all miscarriages will be removed by the Home Secretary and the Court of Appeal each showing more flexibility. Some cases are not susceptible of treatment by court proceedings. The Government allows the possibility of calling in experienced lawyers to conduct one-man investigations in particularly complex cases. That device may well be needed more often than the Government implies.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF GRIEF

The pilgrimage to the Falklands by those bereaved was dignified and moving. Though the experience itself must have been heartrending, the families clearly felt the need to go. Nobody would begrudge them their journey to the South Atlantic or the generosity of British Airways and Cunard in providing them with a free passage.

Yet, a faint sense of injustice has been stimulated. Widows of the war in Ulster might feel slightly put out. The conflict in which their husbands perished has been protracted and largely inglorious in the sense that the mainland British public would prefer to forget about it, even though it has still to be won. A wider element of grievance exists, however. There are more than 64,000 British war widows. No breakdown is available, conflict by conflict, though the bulk of them lost husbands in World War II (figures for bereaved parents are unknown). Only those who suffered their loss after 1967 have enjoyed the right to free travel to an overseas grave, provided the visit was paid within two years of burial.

Lady Jeger was justified in

tabling a question in the House of Lords on Tuesday asking the Government to consider helping those widowed long ago who have never been able to pay their last respects at the graveside. What can the Government be expected to do in response? It is not clear how great the demand would be if retrospective facilities were offered to all 64,000, plus one companion if the post-1967 formula was followed. If even a majority took up such an offer the cost would be considerable. Thousands died in hundreds of theatres between 1939 and 1945 in a global not a local conflict. Transporting the widows of World War II would not be a matter of packing people into Jumbo jets and arranging departures to a handful of destinations.

The Government should pause for a while in the hope that a level of demand will manifest itself through the British War Widows and Associates and similar organizations. After a judgment has been reached, the Ministry of Defence might consider launching an appeal and setting up a fund - Whitehall offering, perhaps, to match pound-for-pound every private

transit and was still being endowed as late as 1595, some 35 years after the Scottish Reformation. It has since been renamed as the Shrine of Our Lady of Edinburgh - in the Lauderdale Aisle near by and been made available for the use of all Church of Scotland ministers celebrating their Holy Communion there regularly. Anglicans offer their Eucharist there, Roman Catholics offer Holy Mass from time to time.

There is a major pilgrimage on the second Saturday of May each year (May 14, 1983) with public transport from St Andrews Square, Edinburgh. Up to 1,000 people gather from all over central and southern Scotland and northern England. The parish minister plays host and conducts a pilgrim's progress of prayer around the church. An Anglican bishop presides at the Eucharist with Church of Scotland

Road to church unity

From the Earl of Lauderdale
Sir, Canon Alan Wilkinson (April 9) touches some sore spots, notably the unacknowledged and unconscious forces at work to retard Christian unity. In Scotland some of us have been pegging away at this.

Alongside the medieval parish church of St Mary's, Haddington, East Lothian, stands my private chapel, long derelict and long known as the Lauderdale Aisle. In parallel with a decision by the Kirk Session to restore the choir and transepts of this church - in ruins and open to the sky since 1550 - and to do so as an eccumenical venture, an ancient pilgrimage point was restored too.

This used to be an "Abbeage of the Blessed Virgin and Three Kings", which stood in the north

ministers joining in the administration. The Auxiliary Bishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh Archdiocese offers Holy Mass in the Roman rite. There is a special blessing and communion of the disabled and sick. Some pilgrims attest to striking "favours".

It is all organized by a group of four Church of Scotland ministers, three Anglicans and two Roman Catholic priests with a few lay people. There is a special Marian prayer - in the form of a Memorial of the Incarnation - compiled by the parish minister which we regularly use together. Among us there has grown a deep unity of love, even if full unity of faith and order still eludes us.

Yours etc,
LAUDERDALE,
House of Lords,
April 10.

Whether the zygote comes to full life status only by natural (or artificial) nurture is not a scientific but a moral issue, although the present Government inquiry will doubtless recommend legal answers to whether there should be restriction of freedom to eliminate zygotes and what is the change in value between zygote and embryo. To be more precarious, which is certainly the condition of the former, is not to be less alive.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY ALMENT,
Winston House,
Boughton,
Northampton,
April 11.

Citizen's advice a growth industry

From Mr Jonathan Davies
Sir, It is dismaying to read of the Minister of Consumer Affairs' actions against the Citizen's Advice Bureaux (report, April 11).

The bureau which I attend once a week for a legal session is run by three people, who work harder, see more people, solve more problems in a day than most solicitors would ever attempt to do.

The staff's range of knowledge is quite extraordinary; their filing and information system is second to none; and their patience with small nagging problems is monumental.

In the area where this bureau works it is the only growth industry for a large proportion of poor people the bureau is the only ally or intermediary between them and a rigid and indifferent bureaucracy.

It is extraordinary to read of a minister, who has no doubt run his own advice clinic in the past, attacking such an efficient and valuable organisation - and then justifying the attack with remarks of the fatuousness that you quote.

Yours sincerely
JONATHAN DAVIES,
4 Paper Buildings,
Temple, EC4,
April 11.

Labour's arms policy

From Mr David Green
Sir, Michael Meacher's passion for hiding reality behind statistics (April 7) does not seem to have diminished since we both lost the Oldham, West by-election in 1968.

All governments so far have failed to lead this country to the extra performance necessary to sustain its living standards. Labour and Conservative alike have fought inflation by murdering demand, rather than regenerating supply. The only difference between the last Labour Administration and the present Tory one is that Labour tried to ransom its political reputation by surrendering on the wages front. It created the 22 per cent inflation which the present Government has since bought off - temporarily - with grotesque interest rates, consequential over-valuation of the currency and destruction of jobs.

Underneath, nothing has changed. Nothing will change so long as brute force is the Tory solution, ignorance the Labour one.

Of the ignorant, those who advocate withdrawal from the EEC, upon which most of our remaining jobs depend, and those who imagine that our independent nuclear deterrent has any bearing whatever on the world scene, must rank high.

Of course, with that intellectual flexibility without which membership of the Labour Party is now impossible, Michael Meacher only takes you to task for criticising Labour's unilateralism on the cruise missile. Presumably he is not so sanguine about the rest of his policy. Certainly our tiny land area and dense population mean virtual annihilation under nuclear attack.

Only nuclear disarmament plus total neutrality might remove us from the destruction list - and then only if we were disposed to give free entry to any Power threatening nuclear attack if we were refused. The probability of someone trying to enslave us if undefended, however, is considerably greater than the probability of someone trying to destroy us if defended. It's the probabilities that matter.

I'm sure that if Michael Meacher and his colleagues had told the ancestors of my bees that there was no point in them having a sting because using it would kill them (which is true) I wouldn't have any bees if they had accepted his advice. As it is their species has survived on earth for around 200 million years. But then perhaps Michael Meacher doesn't keep bees either.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhyd yr Harding,
Castle Morris,
Dyffryn, Aberystwyth,
Dyfed,
April 7.

Christians and Jews

From Mr Richard S. Harvey
Sir, Your recent article, "Jesus was a Jew" (April 2) and letters have helpfully clarified some areas of misunderstanding between Christians, Jews and others. May I, as one who endeavours to stand within both Jewish and Christian traditions, add some comments from an often neglected perspective.

Jewish Christians, or "Messianic Jews", compose that small but significant and growing minority that throughout history has maintained loyalty to Jewish birth and identity whilst being of firm Christian convictions about the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

Those fellow-Jews who did tolerate and follow Jesus (pace C. F. D. Moule, April 7) eventually found themselves out on a limb between the larger groups of non-Christian Jews and non-Jewish Christians. So, today they are caught in the interface between Jewish and Christian establishments. They experience both the latent antisemitism within the Church and Christian tradition, and the rejection of the Jewish community for publicly declaring their belief that the Messiah has come.

Jewish Christians have often been regarded as traitors with less than sincere motives for "conversion" (a word that should primarily express spiritual rather than societal change) by the majority of Jewish people and as something of an embarrassment to the Christian Church. Unless, of course, an attains recognition as bishop, cardinal or prime minister!

Nevertheless the option of belief that Jesus's alleged messianic claims were historically vindicated by his

Third World aid not all one way

From Professor A. I. Clunies Ross
Sir, Readers of the article by Professors Bauer and Yamey in The Times of April 11 should remember that official "aid", which the writers regard as blighting him that gives and him that takes, is simply a transfer to Third World governments of claims to resources. Studies such as one by Peter Heller (in the American Economic Review, June, 1975) seem to confirm what I can reasonably expect that, given extra resources through aid, countries tend to expand across the range of types of spending, both private and public.

The activities of Third World governments are not confined to erecting monuments and persecuting minorities but extend to health and training to agricultural extension and credit, to irrigation and roads and bridges. Whether the effect of aid is good or not depends on whether the government is responsible in setting priorities and efficient in observing them. There are weak and irresponsible governments, but there is no universal rule of profligacy and depravity. Gifts and bonanzas may be wasted; they may distort priorities; they may corrupt; but they may also add to the capacity of the recipients to secure more of those useful things which in some degree most governments do provide.

If extra resources passing to governments in the form of aid are as pernicious in their effects as Professors Bauer and Yamey believe, then it must surely be bad too for a Third World country to find that it possesses a large mineral deposit. Botswana would be lucky if, like Lesotho, it had no diamonds. Bangladesh is blessed because, unlike Indonesia, it has no oil.

The unwary reader of Professors Bauer and Yamey might suppose that donors exercise no control over the uses of their aid. This is very far from the case. Intergovernmental organizations virtually always, and governments often, give their aid for agreed projects. It is true that, apart from the IMF, they do not normally make their aid conditional on the pursuit of certain general economic policies. The combined mismanagement of the world economy by the

major Western Powers since 1973 suggests that this may not be entirely a matter for regret.

Professors Bauer and Yamey rightly dispose of some spurious arguments for aid. It would be good if they were to use their considerable experience to help in distinguishing what works from what does not, in elucidating what donor and recipient might do to ensure that aid is useful. Instead they join in the business of creating stereotypes, stereotypes moreover that can only bolster meanness and insularity.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY CLUNIES ROSS,
Department of Economics,
University of Strathclyde,
Curran Building,
100 Cathedral Street,
Glasgow,
April 12.

From Sir Colin Campbell
Sir, The contribution of Professors Bauer and Yamey is timely, but seeks to push the pendulum too far. While we should eschew the obligational argument, it must be good business for us to do everything we can to help the Third World countries to help themselves, as well as good morality.

The distinguished professors have made no reference to the need for establishing a mechanism for improving commodity prices. This remains an important and urgent priority.

The professors are right to draw attention to the dangers of aid buoying up incompetent and improvident regimes. The giving of development aid should be dependent on the receiving countries conducting their affairs with reasonable efficiency and so far as possible without corruption.

Above all, we should cease giving aid to the "self-inflicted wound" countries where imprudent fiscal and economic policies stifle the development which, given the reform of mistaken policies, they are capable of achieving on their own.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN CAMPBELL,
Kilbride Castle,
Dunblane,
Perthshire,
April 12.

rising from the dead on the first Easter morning has always been available to all. Whilst not the traditional Jewish position, and now under question from sections of the Christian Church, faith in God's revelation in Jesus must surely be either the main source of disagreement upon which the mistakes of history have been compounded, or the means of true reconciliation and mutual understanding.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD S. HARVEY,
7 The Chestnuts,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey,
April 7.

Victims of war

From Mrs Felicity Little
Sir, I was interested to read the letters from A. G. W. Wakefield and Mrs C. Kirk (April 12). Ironically, the day the Falklands' relatives landed to pay their visit, my family dedicated a memorial stone in my father's birthplace in England. It is in memory of both my parents. They were killed at sea at the fall of Singapore in 1942 (as far as we know) after staying faithfully at their posts, after years of loyal service to their country.

Is the Government now saying that we shall all be allowed to cast our wreaths where our loved ones fell in war in the future?

Yours faithfully,
FELICITY LITTLE,
The Malbouse,
Telford Magna,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
April 12.

Ships and men

From Mr George J. Bonwick
Sir, Mr J. Newman (April 7) of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association, misquotes shipping minister, Mr Iain Sproule. He did not say "UK crew manning levels are as much as 25 per cent and more higher than those of European competitors" but that they were "in fact too many cases", and he was quite correct.

Apart from a number of "share ships", i.e. small ships whose small crews share the gross freight with owners rather than receive wages, British crews are certainly larger than most others - in some cases one-third larger, the only exceptions being state-owned or state-subsidised ships or those manned by low-cost personnel from South-east Asia.

Mr Newman knows perfectly well that in recent months some UK owners have transferred tonnage to reputable foreign registries because

Education and achievement

From Mr A. A. Barton,
Sir, Though your editorial, "Filling the school void" (April 12) is welcome as drawing attention to a neglected area of public responsibility, it is disappointing to find it marked by the same middleheadedness which has bedevilled the politics of both parties towards education.

If "education" is something which is offered to children, qua children, surely it is obvious that it cannot be primarily concerned with "achievement" if this means achieving a competence in abstract thought only accessible to those who excel their peer group.

"What list of all the ills confronting Britain in 1965 could possibly have included the grammar schools?" Well, that compiled by those concerned with the fate of 11-year-olds with an IQ of 110 or thereabouts who were debarred, regardless of their tastes, ambitions and commitment to school work, from the opportunity of being taught science by specialists, by the operations of administrative convenience and chance. The cure may have turned out worse than the disease, but that was the grievance, and it was real.

The central difficulty is perhaps even more oppressive now, and it is that at least one third of the population is entered for a race it must lose and go on losing from five to 16, because the only achievement recognised is academic, and competitive, too. In the nature of the case, half the population is below average.

Professor Kennaway's letter at the bottom of the same page indicates a possibility of a different approach, where there would be room to rate various kinds of practical competence and reliability as "achievement", and without the necessity for the kind of screaming which overrides the choice of the pupil.

Given a well designed scheme of options, young people will choose sensibly from the age of about 13 if they are provided with sensible and sympathetic advice.

Yours faithfully,
A. A. BARTON,
17 Dunstons Road, W14,
April 12.

Ill effects of lead

From Dr James Bevan
Sir, Lead poisoning has become an emotive subject with good reason. As a general practitioner I, too, am concerned about the evidence of the increasing number of surveys showing that lead can reduce the intelligence of children and, presumably, adults. I am not surprised that some research, as in all scientific work, does not show statistical evidence of this reduction.

None of the enquiries have shown a statistical swing - which might reasonably have been expected if lead had no effect on intelligence - in the opposite direction. Miss Marjorie Smith and her colleagues (April 6) research shows evidence, even if not statistically significant, in favour of reduced intelligence in children with higher levels of lead.

I do not see how any practising doctor can reassure his patients about the safety of lead, at any level, even when below the present so-called "safe level" (blood lead of 25 ug/100 dl). It is possible to reduce the general hazards of lead contamination by stopping its use in petrol even though the real benefits of this may not be obvious for some years. As a public health measure it is essential, as a political step it should be easy. Surely the time has come for this decision.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES BEVAN,
9 Hill Road,
Newbury,
April 7.

Cash in hand

From Mr Allan Todd
Sir, The Chief Cashier of the Bank of England must now be a happy man. After April 21, with the issue of the new coin, he will at last be able to carry out his promise to pay the bearer of a £1 note the sum of one pound.

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN TODD,
Setdands,
St George's Lees,
Sandwich,
Kent,
April 11.

Bomb in Thames

From Mr H. R. Stevens
Sir, Without wishing to detract in any way from the courage of those who handle unexploded bombs, why, once the Thames bomb had been placed in a barge (report, April 12) was it not gently covered with marine collision matting (or sandbags or the like) and towed out of the centre of London?

If such action had been taken immediately the bomb could have been out of London by dawn; and the worst damage that could have occurred would have been a sunk or damaged barge.

The whole affair appears to be a massive and costly overreaction.

Yours etc,
H. R. STEVENS,
Brock Cottage,
34 Compton Way,
Moor Park,
Farnham,
Surrey,
April 12.

Wages at BP

From Mr R. W. Adam
Sir, Your issue today (April 7) headlined "BP worldwide wage bill up by a quarter" referred to "employees of British Petroleum ... pushing up last year's wages bill by nearly 25 per cent". The article notes your comment that a significant part of the apparent large increase in the overseas wage bill was attributable to exchange rates movements.

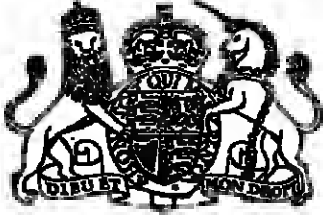
In terms of the currencies in which wages were paid by the group's main employing companies, the increase in the wages bill between 1981 and 1982 was, in round figures, 6 per cent in the United Kingdom, and 7 per cent in Germany and France. In the case of our US affiliate, Sohio, whose wages bill represents 45 per cent of the group's, any comparison is distorted by the acquisition of Kennecott in the middle of 1981: Kennecott itself

had more employees than Sohio and the additional half-year's wages for those in 1982 as compared with 1981 invalidates any comparison. This factor alone makes the headlined statement of an increase of a quarter in BP's worldwide wage bill misleading.

Companies are repeatedly being urged to make greater disclosure. In fact we were under no legal obligation this year to give the global figures which led to the report in The Times and, indeed, most international companies have not done so. In the circumstances, it seems unfortunate that as a result of BP's being so forthcoming, the instant headline and the contents of the report should have given such a misleading comparison.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. ADAM, Deputy Chairman,
British Petroleum Co Ltd,
Britannic House,
Moore Lane, EC2,
April 7.

The sentence in Mr Ian Kennedy's letter of April 11 reading "And for an abortion the law requires a pregnancy, not contraception" should have read "And for an abortion the law requires a pregnancy not conception".



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE April 13: The Prime Minister and Mr Denis Thatcher, His Excellency the Jordanian Ambassador and Mrs Izziddin, the Lord Rayner, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Mrs Walker, Sir Anthony and Lady Parsons, Dame Cicely Saunders and Professor Marian Bohusz-Szyszko, Dr and Mrs Peter Froggatt and Dr and Mrs Patrick Nutgens have left the Castle.

KENSINGTON PALACE April 13: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited Royal Air Force Lyneham. Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight, was attended by Lady Anne Tennant and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick.

Princess Alexandra, chancellor, will preside at congregations for the conferring of degrees at Lancaster University on July 4, Sand 6. Requiem Mass for King Umberto will be celebrated by the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio in Westminster Cathedral today at 11 am.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr B. G. French and Miss V. V. Singleton The engagement is announced between Benjamin, younger son of Mr and Mrs Walter French, of Westhill, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and Virginia, daughter of Sir Edward and Lady Singleton, of 57 Victoria Road, London, W8.

Mr B. L. Henderson and Miss R. MacLellan The engagement is announced between Brian, son of the late Mr T. C. B. Henderson and of Mrs Henderson, of Gorse Hill, Ballynahinch, co Down, and Rose, daughter of Colonel and Mrs F. B. S. O'Brien, of Hillhead, Cullybockey, co Antrim.

Mr R. C. B. Wood and Miss W. G. Taylor The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs F. R. Wood, of Jordans, Bucks, and Wendy, only daughter of Mr K. M. Taylor, of Penn, and Mrs W. V. Taylor, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Mr M. A. Blanchard and Miss J. S. Hartnell-Bearis The engagement is announced between Michael, second son of Mr and Mrs F. H. Blanchard, of Concord, Kent, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M. C. Hartnell-Bearis, of Kilcregan, Scotland.

Mr G. A. McNab and Miss A. E. Simpson The engagement is announced between Gordon Alastair, only son of Mr and Mrs A. McNab, of Melrose, Scotland, and Anne Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Simpson, of Foxrock, co Dublin.

Mr R. D. Habershon and Mrs C. M. Mendelsohn The marriage took place in Ludlow on Saturday, April 9, between Mr Stephen Charles Habershon and Mrs Caroline Mary Mendelsohn.

Mr S. B. Burnett and Miss A. M. Isherwood The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs S. B. Burnett, of East London, South Africa, and Anne Marie, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. K. Isherwood, of New York, United States.

Mr J. J. Manning and Miss A. J. Bevesford The engagement is announced between Julian, only son of Mr and Mrs John Manning, of Dover, and Amanda, only daughter of Wing Commander and Mrs Charles Bevesford, of Hampstead, London.

Mr S. C. Habershon and Mrs C. M. Mendelsohn The marriage took place in Ludlow on Saturday, April 9, between Mr Stephen Charles Habershon and Mrs Caroline Mary Mendelsohn.

Mr S. J. Coleridge and Miss S. Salazar Riscoa The engagement is announced between Stephen John, son of Mr F. S. Coleridge, of Little Comberton, Worcestershire, and Mrs D. P. O'Leary, of Hampden, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Sandra Chetzi, daughter of Señor and Señora T. S. Salazar, of Chihuahua, Mexico.

Mr G. N. Phillips and Miss A. S. Awbery The engagement is announced between Graham, only son of Mr and Mrs R. C. Phillips, of 218 Northampton Road, Wellington, Northamptonshire, and Amanda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Awbery, of 750 Amersham Road, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Mr M. E. L. James and Miss F. A. Blakey The marriage took place quietly in London on April 2 between Mr Michael E. L. James and Miss Frances A. Blakey.

Mr D. R. Hartley and Miss C. A. Fry The engagement is announced between David Richard, son of Mr and Mrs J. R. Hartley, of Wellington, Shropshire, and Carolyn Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. B. Fry, of Overstone Solarium, Northampton, and Beaconsfield, Dorset.

Mr S. Roper and Miss A. K. Reynolds The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr J. P. W. Roper and Mrs Anne Roper, of Oxford, and Amarielis, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Reynolds, of Oxford.

Mr H. Taylor and Mrs N. Cooke The marriage took place on March 19, 1983, at the Methodist Church, Sidlesham, West Sussex, of Mr Hermon Taylor and Mrs Noeren Cooke. A reception was held at Goodwood House.

Christening

The infant daughter of the Hon Ian and Mrs West was christened Emma Elizabeth Hamilton by Canon Philip Hobbs at St Andrew's, Sevenhampton, on Sunday, April 10. The godparents are Mr Simon Murray, Wells, Mr Robin Bell-Irving, Miss Rosemary Whitaker and Miss Jane Gundry.

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Henry Sawbridge, of Kingsgate, Kent, and Angela, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Watt, of Sunninghill, Berkshire.

The marriage took place on Saturday April 9, at the Church of St Laurence, Hawkhurst, Kent, between Mr Kieron Urwin and Miss J. F. Arnold. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Alison Stevenson, Margaret Roe, Kent, and Angela, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Watt, of Sunninghill, Berkshire.

£1,000 Premium Bond prizewinners

Table listing names and addresses of £1,000 Premium Bond prizewinners, including Mr J. W. 10999, Mrs M. 11000, etc.

University news

Strathclyde The following will receive honorary degrees tomorrow: Dr Edward Victor Buchanan, aged 76, believed to be the university's oldest graduate; Mr John Fozard, chief designer of the Hawker Siddeley Harrier and

divisional marketing director of British Aerospace; Professor Jerzy Krot, rector of the Technical University of Lodz, Poland; Dr Helen Muir, director of the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, London. LL.D: Mr Joel Barnett, MP; Dr John

Barnett, principal and vice-chancellor of Edinburgh University; the Very Rev Dr Andrew Hiron, former moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. DLit: Dr Naomi Mitchison, author.



Mrs Avril Fishwick, of Haigh, near Wigan, being sworn in yesterday as the first woman High Sheriff of Greater Manchester. With her is Sir William Downward, Lord Lieutenant of the county.

Time 'running out' for Brighton pier

The rescue trust formed to buy the Victorian West Pier at Brighton gave a warning yesterday that it would soon be too late to save the collapsing structure. Mr John Lloyd, secretary of the Brighton West Pier Trust, said after an appeal to local councillors: "This is our last throw, because we think something has got to be done to the pier this year."

OBITUARY MR DESMOND BAGLEY Craftsmanlike thriller novelist

Desmond Bagley, who died on April 12 in a Southampton hospital at the age of 59, was a writer of action packed thrillers notable for their exotic, but authentic backgrounds and plots of sustained excitement. He produced craftsmanlike tales, rather in the tradition of Hammond Innes and retained a steady and faithful audience amongst discerning readers of adventure fiction. There were usually long waiting lists for his titles at libraries and The Golden Keel (1963) High Citadel (1965) and Running Blind (1970) will be remembered with particular gratitude by his fans.

Bagley was born a miner's son at Kendal, Westmorland on October 29, 1923. He left school at 14 and was apprenticed as a printer's devil. His war was spent unadventurously enough in the aircraft industry where he made Spitfire parts from 1940 to 1946. Afterwards he determined to remedy this inactivity by travel, and it was his subsequent wanderings which provided the authenticity of setting for which his novels were to be noted, and, as he claimed, the education to enable him to write them at all. He first went to South Africa, a country which made a considerable impression on him and provided him with a good deal of subsequent material. He had a variety of jobs there, as a coalminer, an asbestos miner before moving towards journalism via a spell as a night club photographer. In South Africa he also married his wife, Joan, who was the manageress of a Johannesburg bookshop, whose stock he liked to claim made no slight contribution to his education as he was obliged to read his way through it in his frequent visits there. Success for Bagley did not come until he was 40 when The Golden Keel was published. This was based on a story he had heard a dozen years previously, about a hoard of treasure which had been hidden after an Italian partisan raid on a motorised convoy. Bagley declined an invitation to go on a treasure hunt for it by an interested group, but wrote about it instead, in a carefully crafted and researched novel.

REAR-ADMIRAL B. C. DURANT

Rear-Admiral B. C. Durant, CB, DSO, DSC, who died on April 12 at the age of 72 was formerly Chief of Staff Far East Station and after his retirement from the Royal Navy the first Director of the Navy League. A navigation specialist he had had an active war in which he was present at the sinking of the Bismarck and subsequently had a ship sunk under him. Bryan Cecil Durant was born on June 17, 1910 and entered the Royal Navy in 1929. He specialised in navigation in 1935 and after the outbreak of war served in the destroyer Ivanhoe which took part in unglamorous operations off Axis-occupied coasts. In 1940 he joined the 8-inch gun cruiser Dorsetshire, a ship which was to have an eventful career before succumbing to the bombs of Japanese dive-bombers. Dorsetshire had already sunk a German surface raider in the South Atlantic when she was drawn into the hunt for the German battleship Bismarck in the North Atlantic in May 1941. Durant navigated the ship during this operation which ended with Dorsetshire being ordered to close in and administer the coup de grace to the German ship after she had been reduced to a flaming wreck by torpedo bomber attacks and the shells of the British battleships King George V and Rodney. Three 21 inch torpedoes from Dorsetshire dispatched Bismarck to the bottom on May 26 after three days of pursuit and battle. In the following year however Dorsetshire was to suffer a similar fate herself when attacked and sunk by Japanese dive bombers in the Indian Ocean. Durant spent thirty hours in the water before being picked up, but was soon at sea again as navigator of the aircraft carrier Victorious. After periods in the South Pacific and in northern waters operating against German units in Norway, Victorious was sent to the Eastern Fleet for operations against Sumatra and Java and finally the Japanese mainland. It was during this last phase that Durant showed his expertise as a navigator when his skilled manoeuvring of the ship saved Victorious from destruction from repeated attacks by suicide planes. These feats gained him the DSC. The end of the war was not to signal the end of active service for Durant, however, and he commanded the 4th Frigate Squadron during operations in the Korean War, for which he was awarded the DSO. Later appointments included Director of the Operations Division, Admiralty, and Captain of the Fleet Home Fleet, and he was finally Chief of Staff, Far East Station from 1961 to 1963 when he retired. He was ADC to the Queen in 1960. After he retired he was appointed the first Director of the Navy League and held the post from 1964 to 1975. He was twice married, first in 1939 to Pamela, a daughter of Brigadier-General W W Seymour. She died in 1963 and he married, in 1967, Rachel, daughter of Colonel the Hon David Bruce. There were three daughters and one son (now deceased) of the first marriage.

DR HUGH REID

Dr Hugh Alistair Reid, OBE, who died in the Royal Liverpool Hospital on April 10, at the age of 69, was one of the world's leading authorities on snake bite. Reid qualified in Edinburgh in 1936. He served as a medical officer during the war and saw action in North Africa before taking part in the invasion of Sicily and the Italian campaign. He gained his parachute wings. In 1948 he took up an appointment as specialist physician to the Iron Oil Company in Abadan, where he met his wife-to-be, Patricia, who was a nursing sister there. After Abadan, he joined the colonial medical service as consultant physician to the Government of Malaya, and was while working at the General Hospital in Panang that he established his reputation as an authority on snake bite. He founded the Soak and Venom Research Institute in Penang and was its first Director from 1961 to 1964. He joined the staff of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in 1964 as the first Senior Lecturer (Technical Assistance) under the Porritt Scheme, and continued to work on the clinical and laboratory aspects of snake bite until his death. For years after his official retirement his distinction in this field was recognised by the Redi Award of the International Society on Toxicology in 1979, and by the



A portrait of Princess Anne by Lincoln Taber, an American who studied under Annigoni in Florence, which is to be presented to the Fishmongers' Company today to hang in Fishmongers' Hall in the City. The oil on panel picture shows the Princess standing in Gatcombe Park, her Gloucestershire home.

Luncheons

Ministry of Defence Mr Clive Whitmore, Permanent Under Secretary of State for Defence, was host yesterday at a luncheon given by the Ministry of Defence at Admiralty House in honour of Mr Kaul, Indian Defence Secretary, Dr Arunachalam, Indian Chief Scientific Adviser, Air Marshal Gole, Deputy Chief of the Indian Air Staff, and Brigadier Chandra, military adviser, Indian High Commission. PRIVATBank Limited Mr James Mellon, HM Ambassador designate to Denmark, was the guest yesterday at a luncheon given by PRIVATBank Limited at 107 Cheapside, London, EC2.

Receptions

HM Government The Hon Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a reception given at Carlton Gardens, in honour of the President of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, M Francois Ceyrac. Newspaper Press Fund The Lord Mayor attended a reception given yesterday evening by the Newspaper Press Fund in the Old Library at Guildhall on which the Prime Minister was the principal guest.

Birthdays today

Mr Elaine Blond, 81; Professor Sir Robert Bradlow, 78; Miss Julie Christie, 43; Sir Denis Fox, 75; Sir John Galsford, CH, 79; Mr Ivor Gower, 65; Lord Hastings, 71; Major-General C. Lloyd, 77; Mr J. McLaughlan, 41; Mr Julian Lloyd Webber, 32; the Right Rev Michael Mann, 48; Mr F. G. A. Ramsay, 57; Professor J. M. Roberts, 55; the Ven R. H. Roberts, 52; Mr Rod Stanger, 58; Mrs G. J. Warnock, 59; Baroness Wootton of Abinger, CH, 86.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Robert Poulton, editor of the Northampton Chronicle & Echo, to be executive editor (south) of The New Postmarket, and its associated weekly newspapers. He succeeds Mr Howard Fairclough. Lieutenant-General Sir Nigel Bagall to be C-in-C BOAR and Commander Northern Army Group on July 1 with rank of General.

Latest wills

Berwick, Mrs Gladys of Wythen-shaw, Manchester, left estate valued at £87,846 net. She left all of her property to the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Other estates include (net, before tax paid): Barges, Major Yair Alfred of Battle, Sussex, £543,069

Mr Gordon of Rodmer-sham, Sittingbourne, Kent, £220,600. Fisher, Mr Roy of Hampstead, London, produce broker, £201,793. Grant, Mr Cyril Edward of Lymington, Hants, £248,824. Hoopes, Mr William, of Patrington, Humberside, £498,538. Symonds-Taylor, Lady, of Woking, Surrey, widow of Admiral Sir Richard Symonds-Taylor, £93,546.

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THE ARTS

Julian Mitchell's Another Country, for all the play's success in Britain, has struck few comparable chords in America: its author (right) tells ruefully of his struggle for recognition.

Transatlantic tribulations

New Haven, Connecticut, is to New York what Oxford is to London - far enough away to be entirely its own place, close enough for easy access, and harbouring a major university.

After a week or two my confidence began to falter. Things were not what they seemed - Yale was not an imitation Oxford, it only looked like one. I began to have the giddy feeling that no appearance could be trusted.

Returning to New Haven in January 1983, I soon felt giddy again. This time I was there to attend rehearsals of my play Another Country at the Long Wharf Theatre.

dressed as the characters. We even had a few giggling groups, and performances were coming on at Oxford and Eton.

So - though the play is set in an English public school in the 1930s, a setting not readily available to American audiences - I was once again confident as I arrived in Connecticut. The audience had been softened up, I was told, by a steady diet of British television.

Still, there were problems. For the dormitory scene we needed iron bedsteads, and none sufficiently uncomfortable could be found in all America. RAF beds were imported from Britain.

cricket bat, but then could not find it, so we bought one in New York. It was not much use, really - the actor whose prop it was never grasped the basic elements of the forward defensive prod, and since there are no indoor nets in America I was unable to give him the benefit of my coaching.

The real difficulties arose over public school language and life. The idea of older boys being allowed to beat younger ones remained incredible to American audiences.

I did my best to Americanize the public school slang. My own inventions, such as "sunker" for

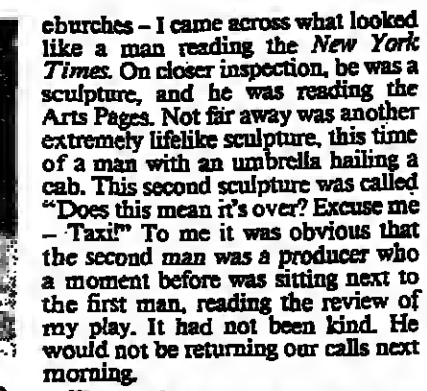
"expel", were the first to go. They were followed by such arcane references as Haig, French, Curzon, Milner, Bournemouth, Bedales and Dartington Hall.

The first preview was a disaster. (The girl next to me left rapidly at the interval.) But, with the help of Anglo-American friends and their children, more translation was attempted, and later audiences seemed to understand more or less what the play was about.

confidence grew. New York producers prowled around. It was all up to the New York Times.

The power of the NYT over the American theatre is not quite credible to Englishmen who visit occasionally. Yet the theatre critic, by whom one lives or dies, himself counts for very little: if he leaves the paper his influence wanes.

Unfortunately this overwhelmingly important man had already seen my play in London and not liked it. The suspense was terrible. Walking across New Haven's famous Green - a large open space dominated by a row of three splendid



Julian Mitchell

Television Romantic chill

The polar regions have always been a source of romance for those who have never visited them, and Shackleton (BBC 2) will be a great success with armchair explorers.

But, since this is drama rather than documentary, "human resolution" becomes the theme as soon as we revert to warm and dry land. In last night's episode (the first of four) Scott and Shackleton fight over their rights to the South Pole as if the whole continent were a stamping ground designed solely for the benefit of ambitious British explorers.

Scott (Neil Stacy) is portrayed as a calculating careerist who has no objection to distorting the truth in order to enshrine himself as a hero: and, if, as someone says, these men carry a piece of Antarctica in their hearts, in Scott's case it seems wholly to have replaced that less than vital organ, Shackleton (David Schofield), or "Shackles" as he is known to the lower decks, is in contrast an engaging and volatile figure for whom the challenge and the adventure are more important than any rewards.

Christopher Rallings's script, however, reverts at crucial moments to the tone of "derring do" films of the Forties and Fifties - no doubt in deference to the atavism involved in reconstructing British heroes of this kind. There were so many stiff upper lips that one hardly noticed anything else, even if the cold cracked them from time to time.

The obvious analogy, of course, is between the polar expeditions of the early twentieth century and the contemporary exploits of Russian or American astronauts - within a year or two, we will be watching Glenn if not Gagarin. Despite the occasional longueur, though, Mr Rallings has managed to concentrate, or simplify, historical events so that they form a sufficiently dramatic pattern. And of course the landscape helps: at the end of last night's episode the great ice barrier loomed like a dream of death.

Peter Ackroyd

The composer Alexander Zemlinsky, supporter (and brother-in-law) of Schoenberg, remains one of the strange 'unknowns' of twentieth-century music. But in Germany, at least, there are strong signs of revival. Stephen Pettitt reports

Natural heir to a great musical tradition



Lithograph of Zemlinsky by Emil Orlik

This summer the Hamburg Staatsoper bring to Edinburgh the two one-act operas by Alexander Zemlinsky, Eine Florentinische Tragödie and Der Zwerg. In the company's home city Zemlinsky's last complete opera, Der Kreidekreis, finished in 1932, is in repertory; and at the same time a production of the much earlier Eine Florentinische Tragödie, written in 1916, can be found further south, in Hanover's imposing Niedersächsische Staatstheater.

How have we managed to overlook such extraordinary music for so long? Partly it must be because the serialism cultivated by the three "New Viennese" giants has commanded the attention of commentators. Though just as Viennese and as new, Zemlinsky did not follow his fashion. Indeed he followed no fashion at all, although as a keen promoter of particularly the music of Schoenberg (who married Zemlinsky's sister Mathilde in 1901) he actively stimulated contemporary trends.

His own prowess was readily acknowledged by Schoenberg, Webern (both of whom he taught) and Berg, who famously quotes from Zemlinsky's Lyric Symphony in his own Lyric Suite. But the natural pastures for his expression were those in which Richard Strauss, after Salome and Elektra, felt so uncomfortable, the fields of tonality at its breaking-point. Although the surface style of much of his music, and certainly Der Kreidekreis, varies wildly, underneath lies a consistent and strong personality. One might expect as much from a composer forced to make his living, like Mahler, from conducting, and from a few obliged to endure the trauma of being to America, where in 1942 he died. This was a move which also took away his creative will.

Der Kreidekreis is probably the most eclectic of all Zemlinsky's works. It has ostensibly an oriental setting, à la Turandot.

It is sometimes sleazy, like Weill's Threepenny Opera (Zemlinsky conducted) the premiere of Mahagonny in Berlin in the early 1930s. And in Häufig, the nominal heroine, are to be found many elements of the character of Lulu (Zemlinsky was to decline an invitation to complete Berg's opera). But most significantly the opera continually raises moral and social questions. Although Häufig and Pao, who has earlier more or less raped his bride-to-be, become Emperor and Emperor, he clearly represents something tyrannical, while all the way through she is mercilessly exploited. Even if we are to imagine the couple living happily ever after we are obliged to remember the price, that of humanity itself, that has been paid.

Herbert Wernicke's production for Hamburg updates the original setting to the Germany of the 1930s, apart from what looked like a touch of Habitat in the Venetian blinds and paper lampshades. The latter of course were intended to reflect the symbol of the chalk circle, and rather naïvely in one scene so does a large round goldfish bowl (populated) and the full moon without. There is also a huge metal ring (normally an allée) fixed around the proscenium and studded with light-bulbs. Within the circle itself Pao exercises a sort of wisdom of Solomon in order to determine who, Häufig or Yu-Pei, is the real mother of a boy-child - his own, as it proves to be. This in turn decides which of the two is the murderer of Yu-Pei's husband, Ma, an odious character who buys Häufig in Tong's "teahouse" but later reforms before he receives his rather rough justice. The circle is seen as a symbol of a bond which includes the concepts of both entrapment and inevitable consequence.

The singing was heard with marvellous clarity through Zemlinsky's lavish but careful scoring. Beatrice Niehoff and Werner Götz as Häufig and Pao portrayed their parts respectively with helplessness and fearsome authority, although the use of microphones as they ascended the steps to their thrones at the end was a rather ugly climax to the evening. Fran Tschang, Häufig's mother, was imbued with rich pathos through the powerful contrast of Olive Friedrichs, while the roles of Tong (Peter Haseg), Ma (Giulietta Sarabba), Yu-Pei (Ceciline Casapetra) and the corrupt judge Tschu-Tschu (Ernst-Theo Richter) were all positively and aptly characterized. Russell Smythe, as Tschang-Ling, Häufig's revolutionary brother, was rendered mute by a cold and so Richard Salter gamely tackled the part from the pit whilst the former mimed. The conductor, Adam Fischer, paced the drama well, almost making sense of the decision to play the three acts without a break, while the Philharmonische Staatsorchester rose magnificently to the demands of a score in which at one moment the music is as dry as Stravinsky, the next as luscious as early Schoenberg. English audiences ought to be given the chance to hear it.

Meanwhile in Hanover the resident company are revealing another, more traditionally-based, side of Zemlinsky. Eine Florentinische Tragödie, which like Der Zwerg is taken from a short story by Oscar Wilde, is an unequivocal mix of Strauss and Mahler. Although the plot is simple it deals in complexities, principally with the neuroses of Simone, who discovers his wife in a clinch with his best friend. Zemlinsky's manner here is to submit his characters mercilessly to the most harrowing of human circumstances. Once more the woman, like Lulu, is the innocent victim, and she spends most of the opera looking on powerlessly as her husband proceeds inexorably to the murder of her lover. As torrid as Salome, yet with touches of Ein Heldenleben too, the work's psychology is like that of a Mahler symphony. It represents a crisis of what could be a single identity.

Heinz-Jürgen Demitz, as Simone, coped outstandingly well with the tortuous demands of his ever-changing role, sustaining a formidable momentum towards the denouement. Hans-Dieter Bader as Guido Bardi, the intruding yet genuinely enamoured Prince of Florence, showed occasional insecurity in his intonation; but the steadily increasing irrelevance of his aristocratic position, and the revelation of progress, was utterly convincing. As the unfortunate Bianca, Renate Behle artfully elicited our sympathy. Hans-Peter Lehmann's production was effectively straightforward and authentically Florentine in appearance, and even if the Hanover orchestra could not quite match their Hamburg rivals, Robert Maxym's conducting put everything in its proper place, both musically and dramatically.

The Rivals Olivier

Bath in 1775: the Royal Crescent is six years old. Pulteney Bridge (glimpsed down one of the vistas of John Gunter's set) is just finished and the hill that will eventually bear Lansdown Crescent is still virgin territory. A self-contained world of gossip, concerts and duels, people discussing and deciding other people's lives, and the pursuing pursuit of pleasure, and Mr Gunter's mobile classical terrace-fronts in black and white, regrouping in infinite combinations of square, row and circus, carry us back into it more completely than any staging I can remember.

His third bravura design in succession (after Guys and Dolls and Lorenzaccio) for the Olivier Theatre, it makes light of this vast stage's notorious difficulties, apparently by perceiving the completing half of a circle in its gigantic, forestage, and then finding its prototype in Bath's architecture. And Peter Wood's production, though it has a breathless feeling and with time to think would shed the little air it retains of a chocolate-boxy H. M. Tennent revival, has a breadth and completeness which Mr Gunter's design suits perfectly. It also has an agreeable toughness which shows how much Sheridan's wit looks not backwards to Congreve but forwards to the robust humour of Boucicault, Dickens and Gilbert.

The Absolutes father and son, in the personae of Michael Hordern and Patrick Rycart (and was it the gifted Mr Gainsborough who did that

Antony and Cleopatra The Pit

From the outset, this is undoubtedly Helen Mirren's evening. She has captured the infinite variety of Cleopatra's moods and achieves the quicksilver changeability that has eluded other actresses. In midnight she slides from laughter to anger to playfulness with not a hint of a gear change. The many facets add up to a complete person, lighthearted yet with depths of feeling, devious and straightforwardly courageous. It is a tremendous achievement.

Adrian Noble's production, transferred from the Other Place, allows an unimpeded view of the action. He has stripped away the trappings, leaving a bare black stage on two levels. Nadine Baylis's costumes provide the contrast between East and West. Cleopatra wears extravagant gold and her hand-

maidens are in multicoloured silk. The Romans are functional and austere, with robes like uniforms. The renegade Antony wears red leather jerkin and trousers, covered when we first see him by a glittering Egyptian cloak. Thus the play moves unimpeded by scene-changes in a swift continuous whole, another scene beginning as soon as the previous scene fades, as in a film. Changes of mood are expressed by Leo Leobovitch's lighting that focuses at times on one character, leaving the rest of the stage in darkness. Against this blackness, the acting is starkly exposed. I was less than happy with Michael Gambon's Antony, whose arrogance and bluster skated over the emotions, his despair at the end was emphatic but unconvincing. More involving was the realization of Bob Peck's Enobarbus of the depths of his betrayal of Antony. The old soldier's pragmatism is overtaken by the gut feeling that nothing but death can exonerate deserting a friend.

Concert

The ecstatic nothingness that Mathilde Wesendonck was penning for her adored Richard. Mr. Weller compounded the excess. The final postlude seemed as if it was never going to end, and elsewhere the RPO's deficiencies in tone and toughness were unfortunately magnified by the slow motion. The only escape from this came in the fourth song, with its thrusting Ring themes, here made unpleasantly military. Dame Janet was obliged to put her chin in the air and adopt the posture and vocal style of an old-fashioned Valkyrie, which at least gave her a persona to screen off the suffering commitment.

Sometimes it can be advisable to leave well alone, as Mr Weller demonstrated in a curiously come-day-go-day performance of Mahler's Fifth Symphony. There was no plan to it, no reason why one thing should follow another, and the massively diverse second movement was a structural mess. The Adagietto was also unlucky in falling victim to slowness again: it became a death trap to the strings.

RPO/Weller Festival Hall

Even Dame Janet Baker, then, has at least one foot made of clay. She began Wagner's Wesendonck Lieder on Tuesday with an uncertainty that was quite astonishing in her, with maladjusted tone and the odd flatness that did not improve for being so defiantly sustained. Her answer to the problem seemed to be an extra injection of feeling, and the awkwardness was quickly overcome, but she was at less than a high level of emotional intensity and became especially uncomfortable in the second and fifth songs. It was simply impossible to credit that anybody could care so much about

Theatre Agreeable toughness in Sheridan's wit



Tim Curry: truly inspired casting

portrait of them half-hidden in the passage?), arrive in a society that Sheridan, who had eloped from it with an heiress only a few years previously, knew too well: a marriage-market where youthful enterprise mines away unseen beneath parental plans. Sir Michael gives us the comic tour de force you would hope for - "plagiu gruff", says Jack, and that seems a mild description for this martyr to the gout, with whom only someone of Mr Rycart's wit and spirit could manage to deal.

He may melt into ecstasies over the charms of his future daughter-in-law, and in the McGowan play Malaprop as a still-attractive Jenni servant, her verbal pretension fatally undermined by a feminine

and pineapples that fertilize some of Mrs Malaprop's imagery. But the way he wacks a chair to make his son sit in it speaks for a whole childhood of what he describes as "Jack, do this - if he demurred, I knocked him down". Advised to clap the unwisely loving Lydia under lock and key, Mrs Malaprop ominously characterizes the suitor Beverly as "an ensign whom nobody knows anything of", and Sheridan, who knew what a blank reception from self-appointed judges of acceptability was like, must have written that with a wry smile. Geraldine McEwan plays Malaprop as a still-attractive Jenni servant, her verbal pretension fatally undermined by a feminine

The opposing qualities of Rome and Egypt are brought out in the lesser roles. The protective attitude of Cleopatra's maids towards the unhappy Eunuch, who is all too aware in the sensual atmosphere of what he has missed, and the Eunuch in turn comforting Cleopatra when she hears of Antony's marriage, all reflect a pervading female influence. Octavius's ceur is staunchly masculine, emotions expressed in backslapping friendship, and release gained through orgiastic drinking parties, where, in the heat of the moment, Antony and Pompeius (Clive Wood) fall into an almost homosexual clinch.

Clare Colvin

The two conflicting sides of male and female finally meet in Octavius's defeat of Egypt. If Antony's death leaves one unmoved, Cleopatra's last scenes are strongly affecting. Helen Mirren has finally made that leap from the eye-catching early promise to being an actress of considerable depth. Paul Griffiths

vagueness about detail, who has acknowledged the first approach of middle age by going into mauve satin and amethysts, and a fashionable beehair whose feather seems just as likely to take flight as her own uncontrollable verbal fancy.

This defines the text (Acree's cry of "Odes wrinkles!" gives the game away) but it is stimulating suggesting a comic ancestry for the character, not in Restoration comedy's grotesque old women, but its affected ladies like Melantha in Marriage-à-la-Mode, learning new words (French in her case) every day before breakfast. It is also unanswerably funny: Miss McEwan's crisp bass cuts deliciously through the lines and it soon becomes an anticipated pleasure to watch her collecting her fine features into a Joshua Reynolds composure before uttering another thundering soliloquy.

Other happy surprises include Niall Buggy as Lucius O'Trigger and (truly inspired casting) an explosion from Clod Hall in the shape of Tim Curry's Acres, a glorious comic creation straight out of Gillray. Beside all these great professionals the Lydia and Julia still manage brilliant debuts: Anne Louise Lambert is too maturely lovely for the 17-year-old Miss Languish, thriving on a diet of library novels, but she is an expert comedienne whose despatched interrogation "Did you inquire for The Delicate Distress?" would send most maids reeling back a pace. Fiona Shaw, fresh from RADA, breathes her way through the eloquent protestations of Julia's role with the desperate good breeding of Elizabeth Spriggs trying to play Penelope Keith trying to play Margaret Thatcher. And as her lover Faulkland, whose neurotic doubts make him a great comic and tragic character, toward Petherbridge's severely Scottish gentleman makes a seldom-explored corner of the play shine with life.

Anthony Masters

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Investment and Finance City Editor Anthony Hilton

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 687.1 down 0.5 FT All Shares: 433.02 down 0.64 Bargains: 23,274 Tring Hall USA Index: 170.5 down 0.2 Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Average 8480.44 up 11.81 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1057.30 up 4.90 New York Dow Jones Average (latest) 1150.74 up 5.42

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.5365 down 50pts DM 3.7500 DM 2.4375 up 140pts Gold \$429.50 down \$2.75 NEW YORK LATEST Gold \$429.25 Sterling \$1.5360

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: 3 month interbank 10% for 10% Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 9 1/8% 3 month DM 5 1/4% 3 month 13 1/2% ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 2 to April 5, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per cent

PRICE CHANGES

All Ind Prod. 13p, up 1 1/2p Benn Bros 153p, up 25p Goshops 58p, up 11p Nat Expor 40p, up 4p Royal Wores 168p, up 23p Rockware 41p, down 5p M T D (Mangula) 21p, down 2p Brook St 24p, down 2p Eisberg Gold 275p, down 18p Cons Plant 75p, down 4 1/2p Hewden-Stuart 34p, down 2p

TODAY

Interims: Dowling and Mills, MP Kent, Wm Low, Martonair, New Central Wiltshire areas, Peters Stores, St Grp, Finalis: Anglo American, Ash and Lacy, Associated British Ports, Beauford, Bedford Concrete Machinery, Cass Rip, General Investors and Trustees, Green's Economist, TC Harrison, Hestair, House Property Company of London, Lec Refrigeration, London Brick, Martin Albert, Morgan Crucible, Newarthill, Austin Road, RTZ, Taylor Woodrow, Utd Ceramic Distributors. Economic statistics: UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid March), London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid March).

Maxwell ready to bid for Cope

Mr Robert Maxwell is said to be ready to bid 70p for Cope Aliman International, which would top the Dowable consortium's 60p bid by 10p. A 70p offer would value Cope at £27.7m. The bid would come through Hollis Bros & ESA, which holds more than 7 per cent of Cope's shares and is 85 per cent owned by Pergamon Press, Mr Maxwell's private company. Last night Mr Michael Doherty, Cope's chief executive, said the board had been approached last Friday by Mr Maxwell but no price had been discussed. The Cope board meets on Monday and reports say it will recommend an offer from Mr Maxwell. But Mr Doherty said it remained Cope's aim to stay independent and it was not looking for a white knight. £1m TAKEOVER: Lex Service Group, which is best known as a car and commercial distributor, yesterday strengthened its presence in the electronic component distribution business with the £1.5m acquisition of Jermyn Holdings, an unquoted British holding company. The takeover was funded by placing 6.6 million Lex shares on the stock market at 23 1/2p each. UDS CIRCULAR: Directors of UDS, which recommended the lower Bassishaw bid against the higher one from Hanson Trust say they weighed the prospects of employment against price in reaching their decision. Their duties under the 1980 Companies Act are outlined in a circular to shareholders. The two dissenting directors who preferred the higher Hanson bid will put out a circular today explaining their reasons.

The Dow passes record by 5 points

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks held their early gain yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average rose about 5 points at 1150 - solidly over the record closing high of 1145.90 set on March 24. Advancing issues led declines by nearly a two-to-one margin and trade continued heavy. International Business Machines was 107 1/2 up 3/4; General Motors 60 up 1/2; General Electric 107 1/2 off 1/2; American Telephone and Telegraph 64 1/2 up 1/2; Eastman Kodak 81 up 3/4; Exxon 32 1/2 up 1/2; Minnesota Mining 77 1/2 unchanged; Atlantic Richfield 44 up 1/2; Merck 83 1/2 up 1/4. Motorola was up 1 1/2 to 107 1/2; Teletype up 2 1/2 to 148 1/2; Elect-Van down 1 1/2 to 24 1/2; Comsat down 3/4 to 67; Whirlpool up 1 to 51 1/2; General Mills down 1/4 to 54 1/2; Lockheed down 1/4 to 106 and General Dynamics up 1/4. Mr William Lefvre, analyst at Purcell Graham, said: "Despite all the fears about a sputtering in the economy the recovery is for real. It's healthy and looking even better than the Administration has been forecasting."

MPs seek JBE 'sale' statement

Sir John Mayhew-Sanders, the chairman of John Brown, is to be asked by two Scottish Labour MPs today to make a public statement on the future of the company's turbine division, John Brown Engineering, after extensive rumours that it is to be sold off. Mr Hugh McCartney, Dumfriesshire Central, and Mr Andrew McMahon, (Glasgow, Govan), say they have information that suggests John Brown's board is considering selling off JBE for around £50m to off set projected overall losses for the company of around £9m this year. John Brown's total debts are estimated at about £40m. Mr McCartney said yesterday: "There is something happening, but it's happening at the highest level. I have spoken to Mr Graham Strachan, the managing director of JBE. He knows there is something going on, but he's as much in the dark as I am." Mr McMahon said: "It's not fair to the workforce who are very much aware of this situation. The company must make a statement either way." Hawker Siddeley, GEC and Northern Engineering Industries have all been named as being interested in JBE. Although Hawker Siddeley has confirmed it has "looked at" JBE, it declined to comment whether it would be making an offer, as did GEC. Best placed to acquire JBE is Northern Industries, whose profits rose last year from £33m to £39.5m. But Mr Duncan McDonald, chairman, said: "We have had no contact whatsoever with John Brown". JBE made a trading profit last year of £5m and is expected to be in the black again this year. This month it clinched a £8.5m turbine order, its 14th from the Soviet Union.

Mayhew-Sanders facing questions by MPs

OECD says France may fall behind in upturn

Cost of Mitterrand experiment

Bank of England signals go-ahead for half-point cut in base rates

The Bank of England yesterday gave the green light to the clearing banks to lower their base lending rates, and a cut from 10 1/2 to 10 per cent is expected today. But new official figures suggest that public borrowing in the 1982-83 financial year may have been £1,000m higher than forecast in the Budget, reinforcing the widely held view that the Government's borrowing target for 1983-84 is over-optimistic. After more than a week of holding the line on interest rates against City pressure for a reduction, the Bank of England yesterday trimmed its key money market dealing rates by up to 1/2 percentage point. "This is a clear signal to the banks that a base rate cut is now in order, and it is likely to be reinforced by a further trimming of dealing rates today if the banks do not move first. The authorities have been anxious to temper what they regard as the market's over-enthusiastic rush to lower rates as sterling bounced back once fears of an oil price collapse receded. They believe that rates may not be able to fall much further without putting sterling under pressure in a still-volatile market, and without jeopardizing monetary control. The message to the markets has thus been to "cool it". But the acceptance by British National Oil Corporation's customers of the latest price cut and Tuesday's call by Mr Paul Volcker, Chairman of the United States Federal Reserve, for lower American interest rates has encouraged Whitehall to give the go-ahead for a modest interest rate reduction. The pound slipped half a cent against a stronger dollar yesterday to \$1.5365, but rose against other leading currencies such as the Deutsche mark. Its trade-weighted index gained 0.8 to 82.8, its highest level for nearly three months. A half-point cut in bank base rates has already been more or less discounted by the foreign exchange markets.

Profit doubles to £36m at Reuters

Reuters yesterday announced profits that had more than doubled to £36.5m. Ownership of the news and financial information agency has been the cause of an extraordinary quarrel among Fleet Street newspaper proprietors. Reuters, whose fortunes have been transformed in recent years by its move into supplying computer-based financial information to banks and dealers around the world, boosted operating profits from £16.4m to £36.5m in 1982. Much of this rise reflected better profit margins although a strong sales performance still helped to push up revenues by 30 per cent to £180m. Owned mainly by the provincial and national press, Reuters, chaired by Sir Denis Hamilton, is raising the dividend to shareholders by 200 per cent. Last year it paid a £1.96m dividend, equivalent to 14 per cent of 1981 after tax profits. This year it is paying £5.68m or 17 per cent of net profits. The increased payout is sure to raise the tempo of the argument who owns how much of the company. Their 41 per cent share is held through the Newspaper Publishers' Association but there is dispute over how this should be allocated among the Fleet Street companies. The argument could be settled at meetings planned during the next few weeks. Mr J E LePage, director of the association, said yesterday: "One would hope the matter will be resolved within the next three to four weeks." Mr Glen Renfrew, managing director of Reuters, said: "The 1982 results confirm the promise of 1981. Exchange rate movements helped us a little, but most of the improvement in the figures was solidly based on excellent sales and effective cost control. We continued to cope well with the competition." Reuters' profits have soared from £3.9m in 1980 and another big rise in profits is expected in the current year.

£1.1m mail order loss at Empire

Empire Stores (Bradford) Year to 29.1.83 Pretax loss £1.1m (profit £2.4m) Stated earnings 1.47p (5.81p) Turnover £142m (£139m) Net dividend 0.1p (2.50p) Share price 88p, up 4p Dividend payable 30.5.83 Like the other two mail order companies which have recently reported their figures, Empire Stores (Bradford) took a hammering in 1982-83 as recession hit its customers' spending power. But unlike Freemans and Grattan the experience in the second half was much better than expected and Mr John Gratwick, the chairman, is bullish about the current year even though there could still be a small first-half loss. The City had expected much worse figures after Grattan's poor results last week and scaled the expected loss up to £2.5m from £2m. But the second half profit of £238,000 unexpectedly offset the first half loss of £2m. But unlike Freemans and Grattan the experience in the second half was much better than expected and Mr John Gratwick, the chairman, is bullish about the current year even though there could still be a small first-half loss. The City had expected much worse figures after Grattan's poor results last week and scaled the expected loss up to £2.5m from £2m. But the second half profit of £238,000 unexpectedly offset the first half loss of £2m.

Claim fall lifts Pearl by 17 pc

Pearl Assurance Year to 31.12.82 Net profit £13.5m (£11.5m) Net final dividend 18p, making 27.5p (23p) Share price 62 1/2p, up 23p. Yield 6.3% Dividend payable 15.6.83 Pearl Assurance was helped to 17 per cent rise in net profits to £13.5m by much improved underwriting results in the second half. At the half-way stage Pearl's net profits were down by nearly a tenth. But the property account in Britain, which was badly hit by weather claims in the first half, broke even on underwriting in the second. Motor claims were also down in the second half, helped by the absence of 1981's special £1.6m transfer to strengthen the claims reserve. For the whole of last year, the underwriting loss showed a small improvement. The stock market welcomed both the results and the 24 per cent increase in the final dividend to 18p net.

Public borrowing may be £1,000m over Budget forecasts

Bank of England signals go-ahead for half-point cut in base rates

MPs criticize 'unclear' fiscal policy

More talks called at Harrods

There was a new development yesterday in the row between the main House of Fraser board and Lomro the company's largest shareholder, on whether Harrods, the Knightsbridge store, should be split from the rest of the group. House of Fraser has refused a request by Lomro representatives on its board that a separate motion calling for a demerger of Harrods be put to a shareholders' meeting on May 6. Lomro has requisitioned a separate meeting to consider its proposal. Fraser directors declined to say whether this would be held in tandem with the meeting called to pass their own resolution expressing confidence in the board and backing its view that Harrods should remain in the group. A document to explain this view was dispatched to Fraser shareholders last night.

STC plans division to sell expertise

Standard Telephones and Cables, the electricals group headed by Sir Kenneth Corfield, plans to set up a new operating division in September to sell STC's expertise in research, new product development and factory automation systems. The new division, STC Technology, will have an annual turnover of £60m a year and nearly 2,000 employees. It will include Standard Telephone Laboratories, a new product development unit at Harlow, Essex, and a factory automation systems and machine tools operating unit at Fooks Cray, in Kent. ITC IDEC, which STC formally takes over from its former parent company, ITC, this month, will also be included in the division. IDEC employs 330 people at Stevenage, Hertfordshire, and is a communications and computer software consultancy. About 20 per cent of STC Technology's business is with companies outside the STC group at present. However, Sir Kenneth believes that the company could double that amount once the company is launched. "This would have a corresponding effect on the numbers employed", he said. Sir Kenneth said the decision to establish the new division would turn STC's research and development work into a profit maker for the group. Sir Kenneth said that the only factor which could delay setting up the new company in September is a problem in recruiting a chief executive. "We are looking for someone now", he said. Expansion drive, page 24

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City Comment How are the mighty fallen

It is an arresting sign of the times that Saudi Arabia plans this year to run a budget deficit equivalent to about 9 per cent of gross domestic product. Compare this with 3 1/2 per cent in Britain. The collapse in oil prices and the consequent also means that the kingdom is likely to incur a balance of payments deficit. King Fahd told the nation yesterday that spending in the fiscal year which starts tomorrow would be \$76,400m (£49,600m), up 8 per cent from the outturn for last year, against revenues of \$66,000m. Only two years ago the kingdom was prudently balancing its budget and running a huge balance of payments surplus on current account. Clearly, a crucial decision has been made at the highest political level not to reduce the growth rate. The government cannot afford to do this, for political reasons, but an economic argument can be made as well. The Saudis are presumably taking the view that oil prices and demand will pick up next year. Higher world economic growth forecasts support the case. But it is far from clear how the Saudis propose to fund their deficit. Saudi Arabia has no domestic capital market worthy of the name, so the deficit will presumably be financed either by external borrowing, or drawing on foreign reserves, or both. But \$10,000m is a fair proportion of the kingdom's external assets of about \$160,000m, and withdrawal of that amount could cause some concern among banks and security markets. It is likely, therefore, that this year we shall witness the extraordinary sight of Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, borrowing on international markets.

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Burmah 1982 RESULTS AND FINAL DIVIDEND. In spite of the recession, we held our trading profit and continued the planned development of the business. The quality, range and geographical spread of Burmah's operations provide ample opportunity for growth as world economic recovery gathers pace. Sir Alastair Down, Chairman.

SALIENT FIGURES	1982 £ million	1981 £ million
Turnover	1,536.8	1,407.9
Profit before taxation	81.0	81.4
Profit after taxation	29.5	36.7
Extraordinary losses	(18.5)	(47.6)
Attributable to stockholders	8.9	(12.9)
Earnings per ordinary stock unit	18.33p	23.40p
Net tangible assets per ordinary stock unit	226p	226p

To: The Secretary, The Burmah Oil Public Limited Company, Burmah House, Pipers Way, Swindon, Wilts. SN3 1RE. Please send me a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts 1982.

Name _____ Address _____

The Annual Report and Accounts will be published on 10 May 1983. If you would like a copy, please fill in the coupon. The AGM will be held in Glasgow on 3 June 1983. The Burmah Oil Public Limited Company, Burmah House, Pipers Way, Swindon SN3 1RE.

APPOINTMENTS

New chief of finance at BICC

Mr J. R. Martyn has been appointed finance director of BICC. Mr Martyn was previously director, planning and finance of BICC Cables.

Mr R. Nelson Oliver has become chairman of Wimpey Homes Holdings, the Wimpey group's United Kingdom private housing arm.

Mr Tony Coane is the new managing director of Wimpey Construction, the Wimpey group's United Kingdom contracting arm.

Mr Peter W. Bickerton has joined Manufacturers Hanover as an associate director in the corporate finance department. Previously Mr Bickerton was deputy chairman and deputy managing director of Sime Darby London.

Mr J. Wood Scott has been appointed contract operations director of Meir Westgarth. He succeeds Mr John F. Davies who became managing director in February.

Mr John Pilkinton is the new marketing director of Norwest Holt.

Mr David Hicks has become managing director of Bowater Ripper.

Mr John Abecassis has joined the board of London shipbrokers Eggar Forrester. He remains managing director of the associated company, Eggar Forrester Offshore.

Mr Paul Talbot Wilcox, managing director of Eggar Forrester, has also been appointed to the board of Eggar Forrester Offshore.

Mr Robin S. Napier has become a director of Marlar International.

Mr A. Michael Detsiny is to join Allied Breweries as marketing director. He is currently marketing director of Cadbury, the confectionery division of Cadbury Schweppes.

Mr Steppo Whitehead has been appointed managing director of C. Howard & Partners.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK edited by Sally White

Gill & Duffus edges ahead

Gill & Duffus Group Year to 31.12.82 Pretax profit £12.9m (£12.8m) Stated earnings 11.0p (10.4p) Turnover £1,006m (£889m) Net final dividend 4.8p mkg 8.4p (same) Share price 178p +8p. Yield 6.7%

Dull commodity markets were expected to produce corresponding profits at Gill & Duffus, and the small increase to 12.9m was in line with expectations. But the share price has moved up, reflecting a jump to £19m or £20m this year, with a rise for shareholders as a result. Most markets have seen more activity this year, and the company has closed loss makers.

In chemical trading Gill & Duffus lost £3m and has £500,000 close-down costs in the United States. But the new sugar and grain team, operating from Geneva and Connecticut, made a substantial profit, which balanced that out.

The traditional businesses - mainly cocoa, coffee and rubber - had a quiet trading period, but coffee exporting from Brazil did well.

Metal trading was weak, and has been reorganized on a commission only basis. This is now in line with Gill & Duffus' gold and petroleum futures operations. The costs of physical trading are regarded as being too heavy, considering conditions.

The group has bought the remaining 50 per cent of Clarkson Puckle, insurance broker, from Brooke Bond and this made £2.3m, slightly better than 1981.

Looking to 1983, the company says it is starting with more activity and profitability - most of the soft commodity markets have seen better trading. It plans to build on its new sugar and grain companies, and to strengthen coffee trading in the United States. Rubber has been responding to improved orders from the motor industry. Business with Eastern Europe

GILL & DUFFUS SHARE PRICE



APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR

because of bank reluctance to provide credit for those countries which reduced their ability to buy raw material. As a result, European business fell from 25 per cent to 19 per cent of turnover. But bank credits are now beginning to be available again.

Soft commodity activity has cooled a little, and the market may decide that the prospective rating at 13 1/2 times earnings is high enough.

Burmah Oil

Burmah Oil Year to 31.12.82 Pretax profits £81.0m (£81.4m) Stated earnings 18.33p (23.40p) Turnover £1,536.8m (£1,407.9m) Final dividend 7 1/2 mkg 9p (8 1/2 p) Share price 168p up 5p Yield 7.8% Dividend payable 1.7.83

The most notable news from Burmah yesterday was that Sir Alastair Down, who saved the company after the great tanker crash, is retiring as chairman in July, to be succeeded by Mr John Malby.

Yesterday's results are certainly nothing to write home about, but although flat, pretax profits are slightly better than the City expected. The figures were boosted by a £9.6m improvement in exploration

Higgs and Hill Group

Higgs and Hill Group Year to 31.12.82 Pretax profit £4.6m (£3.6m) Stated earnings 38.4p (30.30p) Turnover £160m (£127m) Net/final dividend 5.75p mkg 9p (5.6p) Share price 335p up 13p Yield 3.8%

Construction and property group Higgs & Hill has maintained the steady upward trend in both profits and dividends, and is reflecting the relative buoyancy of its private construction work in the south east and its reputation in management contracting.

Sales and profits are up 27 per cent, and the dividend is up 38 per cent, still more than four times covered.

The company says it has become increasingly difficult to replace construction work in Britain with work at a satisfactory margin, and profits and sales are expected to be flat this year.

Overseas, which accounts for about 20 per cent of turnover, the company has secured some good contracts, with the £13m central bank in Barbados, and a £2.5m management contract for a hospital in Egypt.

Property in Britain was difficult, and the trading result was disappointing. In France lettings were good, although this was not fully reflected in profits, but an improvement is expected this year.

Higgs & Hill is confident that a further good performance will be shown this year, and the market is suggesting that up to 25m pretax could be made.

The balance sheet remains strong, the company being in a good cash position.

Given this performance, the company's prospective price earnings rating at 11 times earnings does not look demanding.

Only slight recovery from £605,000 pretax can be expected from glass group Rockware this year, given pressure on margins from its 9 per cent debt to shareholders funds ratio, and heavy capital spending. But the dividend may be restored.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices for various companies including AMP, Alcoa, and others.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Immediate Business Systems is to raise about £2.5m net of expenses by a one-for-four rights issue of 1.35m new ordinary shares of 10p each at 195p per share. The issue has been underwritten by Messrs. J. & F. Matthews, East, Newton, stockbrokers to Immediate Business Systems. IBS also announces a new venture in Hongkong. Shares in IBS have been dealt on the Unlisted Securities Market since a placing at 90p per share in February, 1982.

Astbury & Madeley (Holdings) Year to 31.12.82 Pretax profit, £1.21m (£901,000) Stated earnings, 12.1p (11.3p) Turnover, £12.7m (£10,55m) Net dividend, 5.0p (5.0p)

Huntleigh Group Year to 31.12.82 Pretax profit, £608,000 (£1.4m) Stated earnings, 4.8p (8.7p) Turnover, £17.38m (£14.71m) Net dividend, 2.0p (1.7p)

John Finlan Year to 31.12.82 Pretax profit, £582,000 (£568,000) Stated earnings, 12.44p (20.48p) Turnover, £4.8m (£3.9m) Net dividend, 6.25p (8.25p)

Wilson (Connolly) Holdings Year to 31.12.82 Pretax profit, £10.1m (£8.31m) Stated earnings, 31.1p (27.3p) Turnover, £41.8m (£39.8m) Net dividend, 3.75p (3p)

Oilfield Inspection Services Year to 31.12.82 Pretax profit, £1.34m (£1.03m) Stated earnings, 10.7p (10.4p) Turnover, £11.78m (£9.22m) Net dividend, 2.3p (nil)

Royal Worcester Year to 31.12.82 Pretax profit, £1.22m (£1.95m) Stated earnings, 12.5p (25.1p) Turnover, £49.63m (£47.78m) Net dividend, 8.6p (8.6p)

Automation revives Dewhirst's margins

By Jonathan Clare I. J. Dewhirst Year to 14.1.83 Pretax profit £2.9m (£2.5m) Stated earnings 6.53p (5.55p) Turnover £27.4m (£23.2m) Net final dividend 1.27p (1.08p) Share price 127, up 4p. Yield 1.4%

Heavy expenditure by I. J. Dewhirst on automating its textile plant, has helped improved margins in the face of almost static selling prices to increase profits from £2.5m to £2.9m last year.

Sales this year are already well ahead and increased volume should mean first half profits are at least 15 per cent up on £1.4m last time.

Dewhirst's success is largely due to its long-standing relationship with Marks and Spencer which takes about 90 per cent of its production. But the uniform side - mainly for the police with the Metropolitan force a big customer - suffered last year from growing competition.

Companies like Hepworth and Burton Group are believed to have been tendering to fill gaps in their production lines. This competition meant sales last year missed targets, but prospects are much better with a year's work in hand.

Capital expenditure last year was £1.4m, but substantially more is expected this year with hopes that the recession is ending. Cash is marginally up on a year ago at £4.5m even after December's £400,000 purchase of Castlcrafts though lower interest rates have pushed investment income down slightly.

Sales last year were up by 18.2 per cent, all but 1.2 per cent of which is volume. There is a one-for-four scrip issue.

Mohair boost to £1.96m

By Jeremy Warner British Mohair Spinners. Year to 31.12.82 Pretax profit £1.96m (£852,000) Stated earnings 9.6p (9p) Net final dividend 3.24p making 4.2p (4p)

A substantial improvement in demand for yarns last autumn, plus the effect of a weaker pound on British Mohair Spinners' competitive position, boosted the company's profits to £1.96m last year.

The improvement extends the recovery to the Bradford-based combing, dyeing and spinning group's profitability from the disastrous downturn in 1979 and 81. Most of it came in the second half.

Mr John, chairman, said trading conditions proved to be much better than expected with demand for worsted speciality yarns reviving substantially during the autumn.

The company said that it was becoming increasingly competitive in world markets as a result of the cheaper pound.

A final dividend of 3.24p is being recommended raising the total for the year from 4p to 4.2p.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including Wool, Soyabean Meal, Coffee, Sugar, and other goods.

Advertisement for Bairstow Eves, an estate agency, featuring a large 'A record year' headline and details of sales and profits.

Advertisement for Bank leumi (uk) plc, highlighting a year of substantial growth and providing financial details.

Advertisement for Hewden-Stuart Plant revival, detailing the company's financial performance and plant expansion.

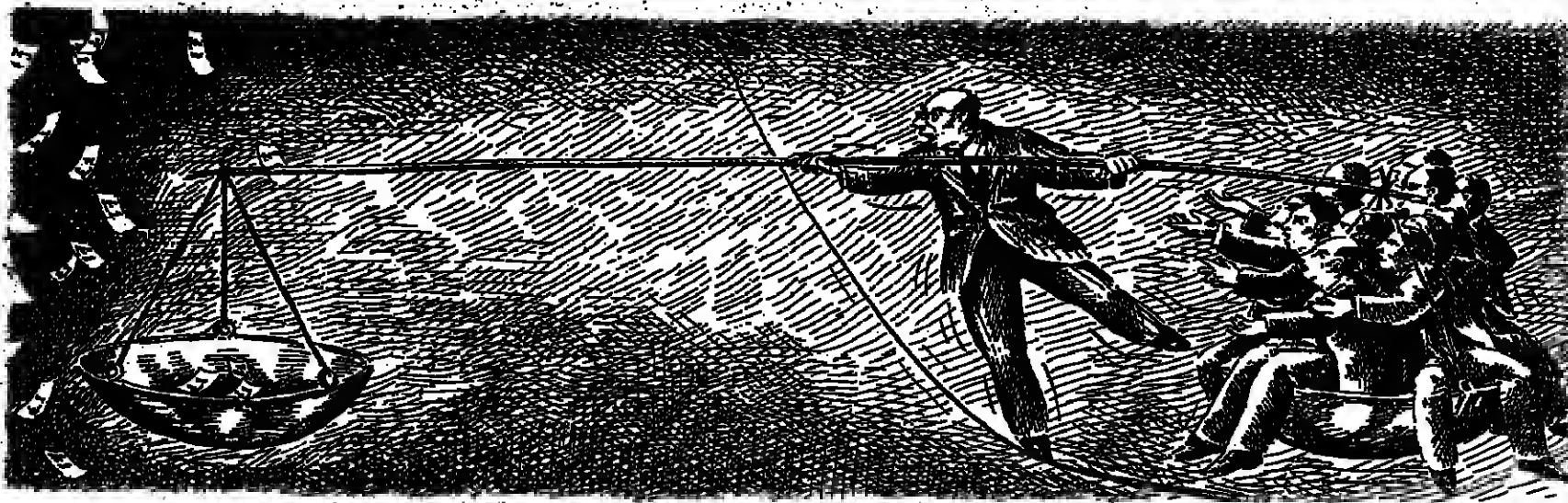
Advertisement for Granville & Co Limited, featuring a table of 'The Over-the-Counter Market' with various stock prices.

Advertisement for Bowthorpe Holdings PLC, showing results for the year ended 31 December 1982, including turnover, profits, and dividends.

Advertisement for BANRO CONSOLIDATED INDUSTRIES plc, showing results for 31st December 1982 and 1981, and a statement from the Chairman.

Demand for home loans is growing and property prices are moving upward. The societies have switched the focus from lending back to savings as they compete for funds from investors.

Building societies



The overwhelming problem now confronting building societies is the perennial one of where to find the funds to meet mortgage demand, a complete turnaround from the situation 12 months ago when some societies were having difficulties finding borrowers.

This time last year building societies were being forced to abolish mortgage rate differentials, introduced to cut out loans and generally relax lending policy in a bid to hang on to their borrowing customers as the banks made vast inroads into their lending territory.

In the three months ending August 18, 1982 the banks lent £1,375m compared with the societies' total of £4,115m for the three months to the end of July. But by the end of the year bank lending was down to about £200m a month and the societies are now once again

bearing the full brunt of demand for home loans - a demand stimulated beyond the normal spring upturn by the banks' erstwhile policy of lending whatever the customer asked for (provided he could meet repayments) to virtually anyone who walked in off the street. The banks' early claim that they were in the mortgage market "long term" has a somewhat hollow ring about it today.

The focus has now switched away from lending back to savings with the societies competing with each other for funds in an attempt to meet commitments to borrowers now running at more than £1,600m a month.

"Societies were forced to

draw on their liquid assets in February to maintain their current high level of lending activity" said Mr Richard Weir, secretary general of the Building Societies Association recently.

"Even so some societies are reporting that they are finding it difficult to meet mortgage demand and are being forced to impose some restrictions".

Societies' liquidity which stood at nearly 21 per cent at the end of 1982 is down to about 18 per cent and continues to decline. "Since last summer societies have increased their monthly level of net advances from some £700m to about £840m. On the other hand the London clearing banks have reduced their lending over the same period from £350m a

month to £140m. Such marked changes in the banks' commitment to housing finance is bound to have a serious effect on the mortgage market" said Mr Weir.

Providing the funds for lending at these levels continues to be the societies' major preoccupation. Many new products and services have been introduced ranging from the much publicized Cheque Save account at Abbey National to commission-free travellers cheques at Leeds Permanent and discount cards from Leicester Building Society.

What is worrying is that in spite of the fact that National Savings, the societies' biggest competitor, is keeping a fairly low profile, net receipts are

running at under £400m a month while £700m is needed to meet demand for loans.

The societies hope to attract new customers and deposits with the introduction of ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) which give the account holder access to cash 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Halifax is launching more than 100 cash dispenser machines starting in June and hopes to have them installed in one in five of its 557 branches by the middle of 1984.

And the societies have been quick off the mark at investigating the possibility of a common ATM network throughout the building society industry. A study group chaired by Peter Lunn of Leeds Permanent has completed the first stage of its

investigations and has concluded that a common ATM network is desirable. Stage two is now in progress and the group is looking at how the network should be established, whether it should be linked to the banks' systems, how much it might cost and formulae for charging societies which take part.

One of the major conclusions of the study group was that building societies ought to take much greater part in the Committee of Loodoo Clearing Banks' discussions on ATMs. They are concerned that they should not be excluded from the banks' plans for a new national network for electronic cash transmission - a system for linking retailers' tills directly to the banks' computers, allowing

instant debiting of customers' accounts. "We have made no formal decision on it but our general reaction must be that we would be opposed to a monopoly that would make us into second class citizens", said Mr Weir. The Office of Fair Trading is keeping a close eye on the banks' activities.

Though the installation of ATMs will undoubtedly enhance the societies' attractiveness, it might require some fundamental changes if the societies are to be able to meet mortgage demand in the coming years.

The Spalding Report set out a number of reforms that the societies would like to see contained in any legislation. But curiously it made no comment on reforming the societies' tax treatment. If the composite rate were abolished and societies were free to pay interest without deduction of tax if requested, this would probably do more than any other single charge to round up new customers and more funds.

The societies could retain the current system of deducting basic rate tax at source but non-taxpayers would be free to claim it from the Inland Revenue. The composite rate now stands at 25.25 per cent reflecting the long-term reduction in the real value of tax thresholds and the fact that more building society investors than ever before are liable to tax. To abolish the composite rate would cut some 0.5 per cent off the societies' operating margins which would have to be recouped by widening the spread between mortgage rate and investment rate.

A major feature of progress over the past decade has been the speed with which mergers have reduced the number of societies. In 1971 there were 467 societies but by 1982 the

number had been halved to 227 with 26 disappearing in 1982 alone. During this period the societies' assets have grown from £12,919m to today's figure of over £74,000m. The figures look good but they hide the fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult for the societies to finance their lending.

In 1971 the ratio of investors to borrowers was just under three to one. It now takes six savers to finance each borrower and there is no sign of the trend being reversed.

Over the same period house prices have risen by roughly two-and-a-half times and the number of building society members has risen to 20 million which indicates that a very substantial proportion of the adult population now has a building society account.

There are those both within the industry and outside who question whether it is possible to finance house purchase into the 1980s purely from personal sector savings and it is increasingly likely that societies will be turning to the money markets for a growing proportion of their funds.

The danger is that with the BSA interest rate agreement now virtually defunct, societies will bid up the price of money by competing amongst themselves rather than finding new sources of funds. Though this would undoubtedly benefit the investor, it would not necessarily produce more funds for house purchase. What we are likely to see is demand for mortgages being choked off by price - a situation which will hit the first-time buyer hardest. The societies will need all the skill and imagination they can muster if they are to continue to meet mortgage demand in the coming years.

Lorna Bourke

COMPETITION

Streamlining services in the High Street

The item likely to provoke the most heated debate at next month's annual general meeting of the Building Societies Association is not the far reaching implications of an industrywide automated teller machine network; nor is it the difficulties the societies will undoubtedly face in meeting mortgage demand over the coming year. What will really set the feathers flying is the proposal to reduce the number of seats on the association's council from 35 to 27, a change which will inevitably mean fewer seats for the smaller societies - and they aren't going to let them go without a fuss.

All of which demonstrates that despite big efforts - and in many instances, very successful efforts - to drag building societies into the twentieth century, there is still a long way to go. One building society council member commenting on the radical proposals for reform put forward in the Spalding Report, was heard to say that there were still too many people on the BSA council who couldn't run a bicycle shop, let alone the finance houses, banks, property and insurance companies which the Spalding Report sought freedom to set up.

The BSA document, *The Future Constitution and Powers of Building Societies*, colloquially known as the Spalding Report, is a masterpiece of diplomacy, looking innocuous enough, sounding moderate and soothing even to those opposed to change. But its implications could revolutionize the provision of financial services in the High Street and make building societies the most powerful financial institutions in the country. Steering it through the various stages of eventual legislation is going to need every ounce of skill the societies can summon.

Predictably opposition has been most vocal from the professions - solicitors, estate agents and surveyors - least used to competition. The report recommends that societies should be able to act as agents on the sale and purchase of property, to do structural surveys "in-house" for buyers and to carry out conveyancing work for prospective borrowers.

All of this aims to streamline house buying, and provided the alternatives of outside independent professional help remain available, it can only be in the best interest of homebuyers. The recommendation that societies should be able to lend for purposes other than pure house purchase is sensible. Why should homebuyers, particularly those buying for the first time, be unable to borrow legal fees, stamp duty, or funds to cover furnishings and other costs?

At the moment they have to go up the road to the banks and pay a higher rate of interest out of already stretched resources. The societies would like to remedy this.

But it is the societies' desire to stretch their wings and take off over other territory that is alarming some. The Spalding Report recommends that societies should be free to establish, acquire or invest in a bank, insurance company, finance house or property company - either by itself, or jointly with other societies.

The societies suggest that investment in such institutions should be limited to one-third of the excess by which reserves

exceed statutory minimum requirements - but with the important proviso that the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies could use his discretion to waive this limit. A building society industry bank or insurance bank or insurance company could produce overwhelming competition to existing banks and insurance companies if it were efficiently run.

What alarms the critics - and many of them are within the industry - is that the societies do not have the expertise to run such institutions and that in so doing, they would lose what some see as their major advantages, their image as friendly societies, becoming nothing more than just another high street commercial concern.

At a lunch at the BSA on the day the Spalding Report was published, the question was asked - "Why do the societies need new legislation?" No very satisfactory reply was given except that they would quite like to have greater freedom. And while much is made of the competition between the banks and the building societies, the real competition is between the societies themselves. The banker's foray into building society fields offering home loans to all-comers died a very rapid death and they are unable to compete for investors because of their high overheads.

The societies point out that most of their current activities are circumscribed by the requirements of the 1962 Building Societies Act and while their assets in 1980 stood at just over £3,000m, today they control more than £74,000m, with more than 20 million members. Anyone who sat through this year's AGM of Nationwide Building Society listening to five hours of tedious nit-picking by members attempting to exercise their democratic rights would acknowledge that some reforms are necessary.

The societies tacitly acknowledge that there is little to be done about this situation - at least at present. To limit members' rights at a time when they are trying to exercise them for the first time in 20 years would be a bad political move.

Reaction from the banks and insurance companies to the possibility of direct competition from the building societies has been remarkably restrained. "So long as they are forced to compete on similar terms, we don't mind", is the common response. Bankers privately suspect that the societies would make a hash of any attempts to move in on their territory and are content to stand back and let them make a mess of it.

What must concern delegates at next month's BSA conference as they sit listening to the debates on what is the right number of seats on the BSA council and who should occupy them, is that the bankers may be right.

The current generation of building society chief executives are all reaching retirement age - five stepped down last year and many more are due to go soon. While there are undoubtedly bright executives within the building society movement, the truth is that they are rather thin on the ground. Where are the managers who will lead the societies forward to take advantage of the brave new world envisaged in the Spalding Report?

L.B.

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BUILDING SOCIETIES

investors have been saving less money, but demands for loans are increasing. Reconciling the two sides of the market has caused strains for the building societies and fierce fighting for deposits with the banks.

The result for the investor has been more attractive savings for those who are prepared to shop around. It has also resulted in some new marketing ploys by banks and building societies to attract young savers then hold them as they become wage-earners and house-owners.

The building societies have been weighed down under the increased mortgage applications as the banks have withdrawn from the major expansionary drive, leaving raised expectations among borrowers. While the Lodon clearing banks have cut back their lending from £350m a month to £140m from last summer, the building societies stepped up out advances from around £700m to £840m over the period. Societies have therefore been drawing on their liquid assets. So they want to attract new funds, and to keep their existing savers. If pressure becomes too severe, they will be forced to put up the mortgage rate to enable the savings rate to rise to competitive levels - as the Prime Minister is only too aware.

There are estimated to be 20 million adults investing in building societies, and between them they have nearly 34 million accounts. Savers, not as loyal as they used to be, have become more interest-rate conscious, although many account users are merely seeking a change-face, interest-bearing method of separating their various funds and resources.

The building societies and banks are not the only influence on interest rates in the money market, of course, which makes it more difficult for them to price their products. Inflationary expectations can push up rates in the markets where they have to fight for the billions of pounds of money or government securities in which they deal.

Government demand for money is also an influence on interest rates, although less of a direct competitor than it used to be because government borrowing requirements have been declining. Because of the sensi-

INVESTMENT

Need for new funds and savers

When pitching the borrowing and lending rates the building societies operate at a fine margin between borrowing and lending rates - around 4 per cent, of which about 1 per cent is overheads. The banks like to operate with a margin of 7 per cent. Thus the building societies have limited leeway for overhead cost increases. The banks find it difficult at times of relatively low interest rates to accommodate their overheads, which is why their mortgage business is not profitable at present. Both groups are nervous of pushing up borrowing rates at the moment, because of the political impact.

The Government is not worried for National Savings rates as the movement has been reaching its targets - set at £3,000m for the second year running - with ease. When the authorities want to step on the accelerator, they have the advantage of being able to increase funds not only via interest rates - which are usually pitched to be competitive with building society share accounts - but by increasing the holding limits on tax-free savings schemes.

The tax free element, which covers National Savings certificates, index-linked savings and SAYE, appeals especially to the larger savers. This creates problems for the building societies, which always feel the draining of capital from a National Savings push.

Despite the expressed concern about liquidity ratios, and the increasing competition, the societies have steadily increased their deposits. For the third quarter of last year, the latest figures available, the total outstanding was around £63,000m out of the personal

sector total of £135,000m. Four years ago it was £35,000m out of a total of £74,000m. The banks' share had risen from £24,000m to £50,000m.

The most evident sign of building society stress about liquidity ratios is the rates they are prepared to offer over the ordinary share account to attract deposits. It is estimated that about 70 per cent of new money going into building societies is going to premium accounts of some sort. While the size of the premiums has shaded back as interest rates have come down from their peaks, these are historically very high. Large as well as small societies are paying over the odds - in usual conditions this is confined mainly to the small societies.

Other services being offered by the building societies to attract depositors are legion - spreading to a determined incursion into traditional retail banking with the offer of a cheque book. This has some way to go before matching the banks' services, and is why the societies are so interested in participating in a national cheque clearing system.

The efforts extend to trying to inculcate the building society habit in the young. To children, they can offer a service where banks do not. The appeal of a pass-book, enabling a child to deposit or withdraw cash instantly is enormous. A current account cannot be held by a child until the age of 16.

But building societies have also been offering a soft-shell approach of giving away toys and money boxes, and using characters familiar to children in marketing.

No short-term solution seems likely to resolve the growing mortgage shortage, so savers can expect to be courted ever more assiduously.

Sally White

HOUSE BUYING

The ups and downs of the market-place

Buying a home is usually the largest single investment anyone makes in a lifetime, but in many cases less care is taken than when shopping around for a car or even a pair of shoes.

Over the last decade there has been a rush into home-ownership as people have been afraid of losing out during the great price surges of the 1970s. More recently single people, of both sexes, have represented the major force in the house buying market as greater affluence and a shortage of suitable rented accommodation has convinced them of the merits of owning their own house or flat.

Certainly the whole process has become less daunting and the money more freely available than probably at any other time. But just because the process has been made easier there is no reason to throw away caution when baring bunting and shopping around for a mortgage.

For the first-time buyer, making the initial hesitant steps on the home ownership ladder can be the most exciting, depressing, frustrating and anxious experience encountered. And for the second and third time buyers the whole exercise is filled with danger and disaster at every turn.

It is now more than three years since the banks made their first appearance in the general mortgage arena. For a number of years, not least the banks had more money than they knew what to do with, the banks became extremely willing to lend money for house buying.

If the banks did nothing else they simplified the whole process of obtaining a mortgage. All you had to do was pick up a telephone, chat to the mortgage manager, fill in a form and hey presto you were given a mortgage subject usually only to a valuation.

Good were the days of grovelling and pleading with a building society manager who seemed to shake his head more often than he nodded. And very quickly the banks had grabbed a 30 per cent slice of all new mortgage business.

Unfortunately the banks' enthusiasm for mortgage lending seems to have evaporated somewhat and most of them impose restrictions of one kind or another. Today a buyer is back on the streets juggling between his bank and building society to see who will give him a mortgage.

While building societies have been lending record amounts, the present boom in the market has imposed restrictions which may well lead to a mortgage famine. Certainly reports from some estate agents indicate that queues are starting to form in some parts of the country, and brokers, solicitors and insurance companies are coming back into their own.

Costs of buying a house

- lowest, average and highest costs quoted for secondhand houses, fully owner occupied, with registered freehold title

BUYING		SELLING	
Purchase Price	Solicitor's Fee (£)	Selling Price	Solicitor's Fee (£)
£15,000	172	£15,000	144
	240		192
	345		300
£20,000	218	£20,000	173
	270		233
	377		325
£25,000	287	£25,000	200
	414		336
	505		449
£35,000	345	£35,000	250
	482		402
	645		530
£45,000	460	£45,000	345
	603		497
	850		695

Stamp Duty (%)	Building Society valuation fee (£)	Structural survey (£)	Total (£)	Total as % of purchase price
NIL	35.65	126	287.65	1.9
		150	401.65	2.7
		195	575.65	3.8
		282	841.40	5.6
		377	1,118.37	7.5
		472	1,395.34	9.3
		567	1,672.31	11.1
		662	1,949.28	12.9
		757	2,226.25	14.8
		852	2,503.22	16.7
		947	2,780.19	18.5

Stamp Duty (%)	Estate agent's fee (£)	Removal costs (20 miles) (£)	Total (£)	Total as % of selling price
NIL	224	69	437	2.9
	311	99	602	4.0
	398	129	771	5.1
	485	159	944	6.2
	572	189	1,113	7.4
	659	219	1,282	8.6
	746	249	1,451	9.7
	833	279	1,620	10.8
	920	309	1,789	11.9
	1,007	339	1,958	13.0
	1,094	369	2,127	14.1
	1,181	399	2,296	15.2
	1,268	429	2,465	16.3
	1,355	459	2,634	17.4
	1,442	489	2,803	18.5
	1,529	519	2,972	19.6
	1,616	549	3,141	20.7
	1,703	579	3,310	21.8
	1,790	609	3,479	22.9
	1,877	639	3,648	24.0
	1,964	669	3,817	25.1
	2,051	699	3,986	26.2
	2,138	729	4,155	27.3
	2,225	759	4,324	28.4
	2,312	789	4,493	29.5
	2,399	819	4,662	30.6
	2,486	849	4,831	31.7
	2,573	879	5,000	32.8
	2,660	909	5,169	33.9
	2,747	939	5,338	35.0
	2,834	969	5,507	36.1
	2,921	999	5,676	37.2
	3,008	1,029	5,845	38.3
	3,095	1,059	6,014	39.4
	3,182	1,089	6,183	40.5
	3,269	1,119	6,352	41.6
	3,356	1,149	6,521	42.7

Source: Woolwich Building Society.

For the first-time buyer the initial step is to establish how much a building society or bank is prepared to lend you. The rough rule of thumb guide is still between 2 1/2 and 3 times your annual gross salary and if you are buying with a friend or spouse then a year's income of the other person will usually be taken into account too. You must also establish what percentage of the valuation price they will lend. In these less generous days the maximum appears to have slipped from 95 per cent, or even 100 per cent in some cases, to about 85 per cent to 90 per cent.

Building societies still tend to be very conservative and are cautious about what types of property they will lend on. While they recognize that one bedroom flats and houses make useful starter homes for young single people they prefer two bedrooms because it will be easier to resell later.

Once it is established how much you can spend, the gruelling and often depressing,

house hunting starts. To make life easier try to decide roughly where you want to live. If it is outside the area you know well then spend some time exploring in order to get a feel for the place, fixing in your own mind which streets or roads are better than others.

No matter how specific you are an agent will simply hand you a list of properties which more or less covers your price range. Never be afraid to look at properties which may at first appear more expensive than you can afford - prices are usually negotiable and you may be able to talk the bank or building society manager into lending more money.

If you are buying a flat then be careful of the not-so-hidden extras like service charges and rates as well as utilities. In central London service charges can range from between £15 to £30 a week depending on the block.

Viewing properties for the first time gives most people a distorted perspective of the

house or flat. Obviously with some you walk in through the front door and you want to buy it but that shouldn't prevent you from keeping your eyes open for obvious defects which will cost money to rectify.

It is advisable to employ a surveyor to examine any house or flat you intend to buy. Less than one in 10 buyers do so and it can cost them dear. Surveyors charges relate to the purchase price but an average house or flat will cost you about £150 in survey fees.

There is a certain amount of preliminary work you can do yourself. Is there a shortage of electric points in each room? If so it may indicate that the property has been rewired on the cheap and may need further work. Is there a smell of dampness from cupboards under the stairs or the cellar? Do the floorboards move under the carpet when you walk across the room? Do the walls look out of line and is the pointing crumbling away outside? Are

Baron Phillips
Property Correspondent

Nationwide in action: Handcross



Nationwide is actively supporting some self-build groups, as well as urban renewal programmes in many city centres where housing improvements are urgently needed.

Above we show a site at Handcross, Sussex, where the Society is assisting a group with the necessary skills to build their own homes.

First-time buyers also need help and nearly half Nationwide's lending goes to such applicants, many of whom are on lower than average earnings.

Nationwide is also active in providing valuable up-to-date information about the housing market in its regular quarterly bulletin "House Prices."

It pays to decide Nationwide



House prices are on the move again. After almost two years in the doldrums there are clear signs of a more buoyant market in many parts of the country.

But the question is - how far will house prices rise this year? The straight answer is that no one really knows.

At the beginning of the year, when signs of a revival became apparent, many with experience of the property market were predicting an overall rise of 10 per cent, but already this view is being reconsidered, as certain sectors of the market show healthier than expected price gains. This is particularly true of houses and flats which appeal to first-time buyers.

A recent survey from the Nationwide Building Society showed that in the first three months of the year prices rose by 2 per cent compared with 2 1/2 per cent in the previous quarter. These are both healthy gains made at a time of the year when the house market is traditionally slow.

Normally the big rush into house buying comes in spring. This year is unlikely to be any different, except that the hand wagon has already started rolling; but we may see more activity in the middle - £40,000 to £80,000 - price range.

According to the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers, now is the time to buy or sell a home. The society confirms that buyer interest is at its highest level for two years and it advises anyone contemplating a sale to act now.

But selling in a rising market is always difficult. Would it be better to wait to see if a definite trend emerges, or to sell while the going is good? Again, there is no easy answer.

The increase in prices, says the ISVA, is matched in some areas by such a strong demand for property, at all levels, that the antisocial practice of "gazumping" has reappeared. For those fortunate enough not to have encountered it, it is the way in which vendors hold out for the highest price against competing buyers - a frustrating, time-consuming and money-wasting exercise.

Little can be done to prevent gazumping, estate agents argue that they are employed to get the best price for the seller, though most despise the practice.

Against this background of rising prices it should be remembered that there are tremendous regional variations both in the amount of any increase and in the speed of sales. It should also be borne in mind that prices hardly moved during the past two years, and home owners should not get



carried away by the prospect of property values leaping ahead at a rapid rate.

A number of factors has led to this recent upward drift in prices. In the second half of 1982 interest rates tumbled from a record level of 15 per cent to around 10 per cent, inflation fell to about 5 per cent and the banks and building societies were injecting more money into the market than ever.

But perhaps the most important ingredient of all was confidence. Buyers were more confident of keeping their jobs as unemployment levels stabilised at around 3,250,000; they were more confident of not slipping further behind in their standard of living as inflation fell; and they felt more confident that lower interest rates were here to stay, for a while at least.

At the same time government housing policies were beginning to bite. Sales of council houses exceeded 500,000, less public sector housing was built and council rents rose: all had the desired effect to push more and more people into home ownership.

Also, private housebuilders began to drag themselves off the 1980 low point, when work started on only 96,000 homes, to the point where that figure looks like doubling this year. Even in these lean past few years sales were stimulated by the marketing activities of builders like Sir Lawrie Barratt, who offered a whole host of incentives to tempt buyers into a new home.

The greatest demand has been for first-time buyers' property and many of the large builders have switched as much as three-quarters of their production into small flats and houses. While this has mopped up much of that demand, there has been little activity among second and third time buyers.

Estate agents have been reporting huge backlogs of unsold property during the past two years. Only now are they beginning to see shortage of certain types of houses and flats, as sales start to increase.

PRICES

Moving again, but how far?

average increases. But even in some parts of the Midlands some prices have risen by as much as 8 per cent over the past few months.

While the South-east has generally been regarded as a pace-setter for house prices, many agents are saying that rises are only just above the national average.

The ISVA survey indicates that the western region has witnessed the strongest recovery, as the cost of buying a home has advanced by more than 12 per cent since last June.

But it must be remembered that many of these price rises are from a low base, because in autumn 1981 there was a general decline and even now costs have only just managed to regain their position of two years ago. Just because everyone is saying that there have been widespread increases, you cannot, in every case, simply add on 10 per cent to the price you paid for your home two years ago.

Although last month's Budget must be regarded as a help to home buyers, the marginal increase in the mortgage tax threshold is not going to set the residential market alight. Most people in the property industry believe the Chancellor's move will have little or no impact on prices.

If confidence can be restored to the economy and real inroads made into unemployment levels, and if fears of a mortgage famine are unfounded, then we may well see a general uplift in house prices. But with the prospects of a general election looming - and with all the uncertainty that entails - we cannot really expect a major improvement in prices for some time yet.

B. P.

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FUNDS

A timely change that may secure a mortgage

It always pays to keep an ace up your sleeve in any bargaining situation. Homebuyers wavering on the brink of switching from a straight repayment loan to an insurance-linked endowment method should refrain from making the switch if they are likely to move house soon.

Queues of up to 12 weeks are reported by all the major building societies as they struggle desperately to meet the ever-increasing demand for home loans. And if you are likely to want a mortgage soon, the offer of converting to the insurance-linked method might be the very ace which will clinch the deal and get you a loan where others seeking a repayment mortgage will be told to wait.

Even building society managers are human and the commission earned on selling you an insurance policy could be the deciding factor in giving you a loan as opposed to the next borrower.

The table shows how dramatically the situation has changed from last summer when virtually anyone could walk into a building society branch and - provided the normal lending criteria were met - obtain a loan.

Nobody really thought the Indian summer would last and when interest rates began to fall in the autumn, the banks decided that they had done enough mortgage business and pulled out, leaving the societies to cope with the inevitable shortages.

Only NatWest retains any real presence in the market, lending £90m to £100m of the High Street banks' current monthly total of £140m. NatWest has now decided that there is no point in giving money away when borrowers

are perfectly prepared to pay more, and introduced, from April 13, a 1 per cent premium on endowment linked loans - up from 10 per cent to 11 per cent.

At the building societies the situation is beginning to look grim and mutterings of the need for an increase in rates to bring in more money are beginning to overwhelm all other considerations.

"The situation is not looking very good," says Mr Parkinson, leading manager at the Halifax. "We seem to have waiting lists at the majority of branches - most have used all their April allocation and are already starting on May's".

Chains of homebuyers awaiting mortgages are developing and spring has seen the first report of gazumping.

"We are lending to members only," says Mr John Fry of Abbey National. Abbey doesn't use a queuing system but gives potential borrowers a definite date for their loan any time up to 12 weeks ahead. "We are already up to the limit," says Mr Fry. "Demand is showing no sign of slackening and I think we are in for a difficult summer."

Abbey National is asking client homebuyers to plough back into their new home any profits made on the sale of their old property.

Over at Nationwide, Mr Gordon Bentley reports queues forming rapidly. "We are getting demand from all sources - not only from ordinary members but housebuilders are suddenly feeling more confident and housing associations have become very enthusiastic".

Nationwide is not cutting back on its percentage advance but borrowers are having to wait about eight weeks for a loan.

First-time buyers in the

"priority" category are going to their local authority to obtain their chit under the local authority support scheme which gives them preference in a building society mortgage queue. Last summer they weren't bothering as they were able to obtain a loan direct from a society.

Woolwich Building Society has had to limit lending to priority cases only at some branches. "The money is just not coming in," reports Mr David Blake. "Demand shows no sign of slackening and people are having to wait six to ten weeks for a loan."

Of the big five societies, Leeds Permanent is the only society not quite so sorely pressed. "I would say we are taking six to eight weeks at some branches but we try to move money around a bit from those branches where funds are not being readily taken up to branches where demand is heavy," commented Mr Jim Drake, chief lending manager at Leeds Permanent. "But there is no sign of demand dropping off."

The chances of getting a loan at one of the bigger societies if you are not a member, or have been saving only recently, are virtually non-existent. Most expect borrowers to have saved for at least six months. Smaller societies are generally more flexible but will charge above the recommended rate of 10 per cent for their money.

With home loans tight, expect to see the resurrection of that almost extinct breed, the mortgage broker. But whatever you do, don't switch to an endowment loan now, if you are likely to want a new mortgage in the next few months. You could need this as a sweetener to get your loan.

L.B.

MORTGAGE AVAILABILITY

Society	Mortgage Rate	Starting Point for Higher Rates	Waiting Time	Maximum % Advance	Membership	Advance as multi of salary
Halifax	10%	10.25%	4-6 weeks	80%	6-12 months	3 times larger + 1 times smaller
Abbey National	10%	10.25%	12 weeks	70% (more for first time buyers)	6 months	2 1/2 times larger + 1 times smaller
Nationwide	10%	10.25%	8 weeks	normal terms	6-12 months	2 1/2 times larger + 1 times smaller
Leeds Permanent	10%	10.25%	6-8 weeks	up to 95%	6 months	larger + 1 times smaller
Woolwich	10%	10.25%	6-10 weeks	up to 90%	6-12 months	larger + 1 times smaller

*all societies say that the maximum percentage advance will vary according to the borrower and the property. In all cases the situation at individual branches will vary.

SOCIETIES

Breaking down the traditional role

Building societies should be the most democratic of our financial institutions. They describe savers as members and invite them to attend annual general meetings. In theory members can vote in, or out, any main board director of a society and, in theory, get themselves elected.

But according to Mr Richard Weir, secretary general of the Building Societies Association: "The mechanism for ordinary members to get elected to the board of a building society is already there - the sad thing is that the vast majority of members don't seem interested in exercising their rights. There is a certain amount of apathy on the part of members."

What Mr Weir says is correct but it will cut little ice with that old campaigner Mr Paul Twyman, the civil servant economist, who has been the scourge of the Anglia Building Society since 1978. Mr Twyman campaigned against the Anglia merger with the Hastings and Thanet Building Society, but since its takeover of the London and South England he has been invited onto the enlarged Anglia board.

Despite what the societies may say it is rare for a "commoner" to battle his way onto the board of a leading financial institution. Most people are too afraid to take on the might of an established board which is often staffed by the gills with many well known names from the world of industry and business.

Another member who is prepared to fight it out with his society is the Barnstaple solicitor Mr Christopher Punt. He is doing battle with the Nationwide as part of his attempt to get onto the institution's board.

Mr Twyman and Mr Punt have done their best to shatter the cosy existence of the building society movement



Mr Richard Weir: "The sad thing is that the vast majority of members don't seem interested in exercising their rights."

which, until the last five years or so, had virtually gone its own way for the past 200 years.

It is, perhaps, only since the first real house price boom of 1973-3 that the public at large began to question the role of building societies and their attitudes to lending.

A combination of soaring inflation and government legislation pushed more and more young people into the home-owning market. Gone were the days when a young couple would save for years to buy a new house when they married. Today's young wanted a home now - and they were not prepared to wait for it.

Suddenly there was a scramble to buy property - any type of property. And during the mid 1970s the societies showed their true colours: they were only in the business of lending money for the purchase of "respectable" homes in "respectable" locations. Allegations of the so-called red-lining made national news and word spread among young buyers that such and such a society would not lend on conversions and another would not touch flats above shops.

At the same time the movement itself was witnessing the biggest expansion it had ever known. Since 1976 the number of branches almost doubled to around 6,500 and its full-time

staff increased by 50 per cent to 55,773 in 1981.

The movement became a major force within financial institutions but somehow building societies were regarded as being much closer to the public than banks have ever been. And the public felt societies should be answerable to the man in the street.

Yet despite the recent intrusion by the banks into their traditional home loans business the societies remain extremely resilient and resistant to change. Despite the reforms of the building societies constitution called for in the Spalding committee report which would allow the movement greater flexibility and a wider brief, they are at heart conservative.

Flamboyant gimmicks like cheque books and credit serve only as a smokescreen and were born out of competition with the banks. Building societies are in business to lend money for house-buying which is financed by attracting investors to save with them.

In the past five years building societies have undergone greater changes than probably in the past 100 years and it seems likely a radical departure from its traditional origins will happen during the remainder of this decade.

B.P.

HOME LOANS BATTLE

Banks withdraw from the fray

The battle in the High Street is in a lull. The banks have withdrawn from their major foray into the mortgage market and are taking stock for, while they have gained market share, so that by the end of this year they are expected to have 15 per cent of home loans, the banks are not making money on the business.

And so, instead of being forced to compete with banks who were prepared to lend 100 per cent of the money for house purchase, the societies now find that the banks, too, are taking a more prudent line. Rationing by percentage is again the norm.

The high level of interest rates has dulled the institutions' keenness for the fray. And the decline in the savings ratio means that the focus is now on sources of funds. But the two years or so of fierce competition have left permanent changes in the attitudes of banking and building societies, as well as with the consumer. Last year mortgages accounted for 26 per cent of bank lending.

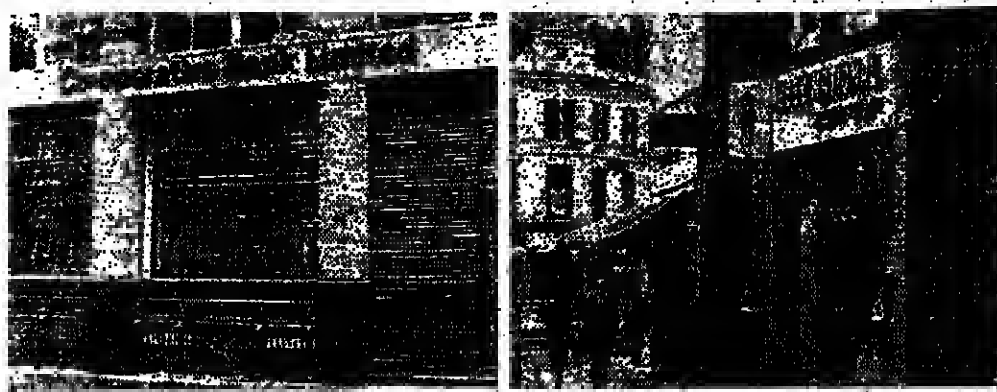
The increase in market share - it was 6 per cent in 1980 - hides the speed of growth. At one stage the banks were taking at least a third of new mortgage business.

The building societies had created the vacuum that the banks were able to fill. Because of the desire to maintain their liquidity ratios, the societies were rationing money, and a shortage probably persisted for most of the 1970s, following the house price surge of 1972-73.

Other institutions were slow to fill the gap, lagging behind those in other western countries. For example, in the United States banks supply 17 per cent of house mortgages, and in France the latest figure is 45 per cent.

One consequence of the increased availability of funds has been a rise in individuals' income gearing of about 50 per cent between 1978 and 1981. Hence, the political sensitivity about mortgage rates, even if the amount of change in monthly payments on rises in interest rates is small.

But the extra money around



Marriage of convenience: a link between the Co-op Bank and Abbey National

HOME LOANS 1981-1983

	Monetary Sector	Building Societies	Others ²	Total
Mortgage advances, net of repayment £bn. Percentages: other number, mental share; below number, increase in outstandings				
Outstanding end-1980	3.0 (6%)	42.7 (82%)	6.6 (12%)	52.3 (100%)
Increase in:				
1981	+2.7 (27%) (+90%)	+5.3 (54%) (+15%)	+0.8 (5%) (+12%)	+9.8 (100%) (+19%)
1982	+4.3 (33%) (+75%)	+7.5 (58%) (+15%)	+1.2 (5%) (+18%)	+13.0 (100%) (+21%)
1983	+3.0 (21%) (+30%)	+10.0 (70%) (+18%)	+1.3 (5%) (+15%)	+14.3 (100%) (+19%)
Outstanding end-1983	13.0 (15%)	66.5 (74%)	6.9 (11%)	86.4 (100%)

¹ 1982 estimate based on first nine months. 1983: Lloyds Bank forecast. ² Banks and TSB. ³ Local authorities, insurance companies, etc. Source: Financial Statistics.

is not thought likely to create a revival in housebuilding on the scale seen in the thirties, also a time of innovation in the housing finance market. At that time it was building society practice that changed because of the increased volume of saving and low interest rates.

In its review, "Mortgage lending and the housing market", last September the Bank of England Bulletin stated: "Several of the features of the thirties are lacking today. Interest rates have fallen in nominal terms, but remain high in real terms by standards of the seventies. Real incomes are not rising strongly, and building land is in rather inelastic supply. The housing stock is high in comparison to the population aged over nineteen by recent standards." So, pressure on house prices, and

demand for higher mortgage sums could result.

This year the banks' share of new mortgage business is expected to fall back to around 20 per cent. The banks were probably surprised by the speed at which they reached their targets, yet there is no danger of their leaving the market.

"Building societies are in a better position to attract deposits at a time of low interest rates, and are competing harder on the advances side. The banks will nevertheless have more than quadrupled their outstanding mortgage advances in only three years, and clearly intend to remain a major force in the market."

This is the view of Mr Christopher Johnson, Lloyds Bank's economist. But he believes that the banks' share will fluctuate with changing monetary conditions.

Both the banks and the building societies are continuing to offer new products even though the battle over mortgages has ebbed. The banks are under constant scrutiny and pressure by the Government, which can introduce the threat of taxation. At the same time, world recession and the international debt problems of developing countries are creating financial pressures. The banks are seeking both to offer services for which they can charge fees, and to attract money on which they can arbitrage a return.

Housing continues to be a centre of profit as it is the major source of capital outlay for the individual. The banks are exploring the idea of providing one-stop-shopping - from house selection through to finance for purchase of the building and for renovation and furnishing -

taking advantage of their greater flexibility on lending.

Midland has bought a 35 per cent stake in an estate agency that operates in the North and the Midlands. National Westminster has become involved with the Team Association, which markets for a chain of independent estate agents. Lloyds Bank was the first into this area, setting up Black Horse Agencies last May.

In their search for new products, the building societies and the banks are even trying tentative liaisons in the market place - a reflection of the radical thinking going on in both groups.

Last month Nottingham Building Society and the Bank of Scotland, in conjunction with British Telecom, announced a computerized home banking and shopping service. Home-link customers will be able to check their building society and bank accounts on a terminal screen, and transfer funds, pay bills and order goods with a range of suppliers as well as book holidays and order travellers' cheques from Thomas Cook.

Abbey National has a link with the Co-op Bank, which will provide a clearing service for the Abbey's Cheque-Save scheme: the lack of access to a central clearing system has greatly inhibited the building societies' entry into the cheque business.

Midland Bank and the Nationwide, and National Westminster and the National & Provincial Building Society have joined forces to issue Access credit cards to the building society's customers.

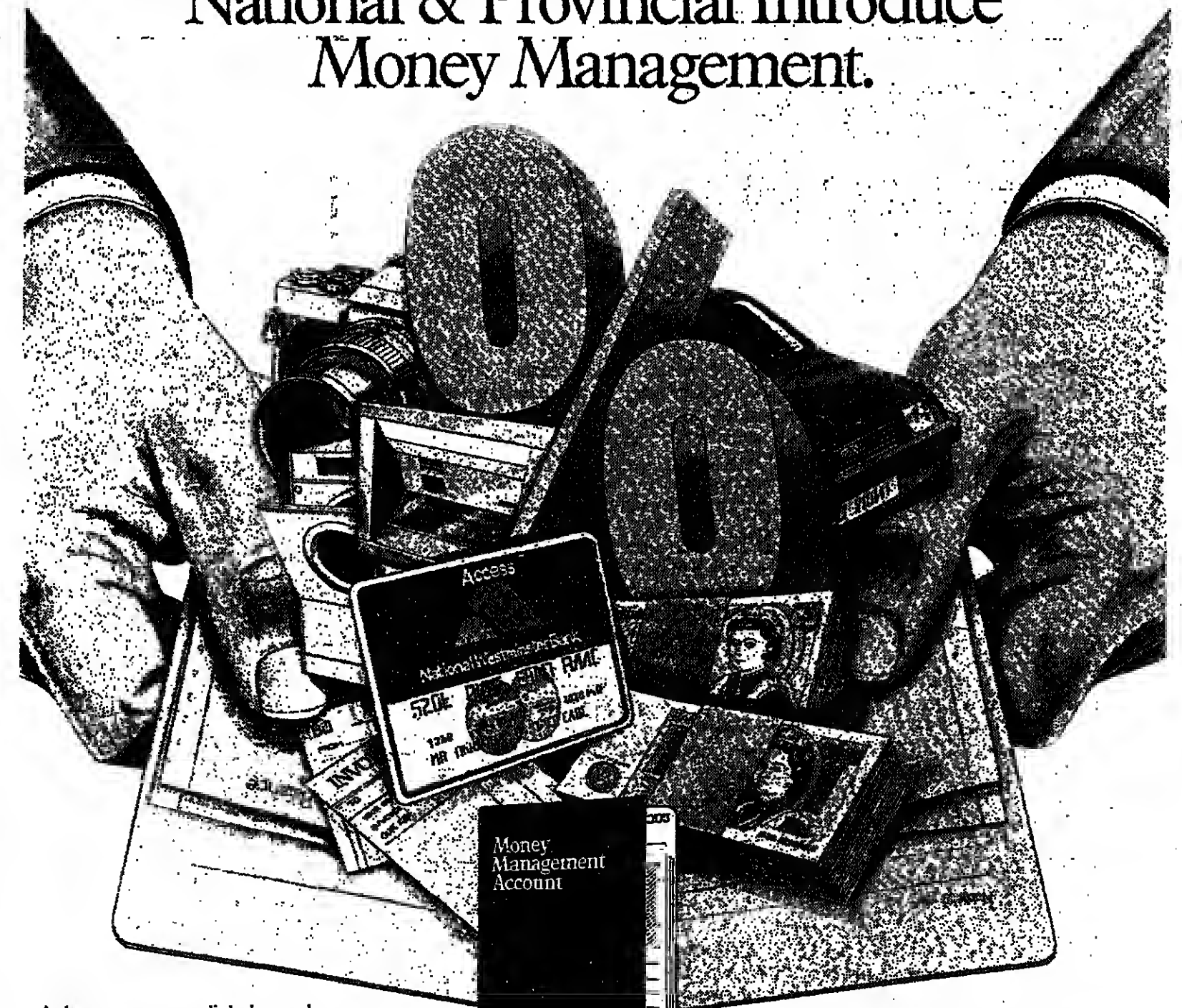
It remains to be seen how far the societies will pursue these avenues towards expansion into banking.

As to the banks, they may not be as large in the mortgage business as they seem - not all the money raised this way from bank mortgages went on housing - but they are undoubtedly here to stay. It should not be forgotten that this is not entirely a new market for them.

Sally White

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At last, now you can link the modern way to shop and pay with the traditional high-interest earning advantages of a building society account.

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A Money Management Account lets you:

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Provincial branches all over the country.

- Obtain cash through your NatWest Access card at any of the 10,000 bank branches in the UK displaying the Access sign and soon from 750 NatWest Servicecells 24 hours a day.
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دكان من الدول

Scottish Widows reports on '82

NEW BUSINESS It is pleasing to report that in 1982 the new annual premium income for ordinary business assurances and annuities, including executive pension schemes, amounted to over £14M an increase of over 15% on 1981. The main areas of improvement were unit-linked assurance and pensions contracts and endowment assurances.

INVESTMENTS The Society continued to invest heavily in fixed interest stocks in the early months of last year but after their strong rise we directed funds into equity markets, particularly overseas.

We invested a total of £146M during 1982 of which £30M was invested in fixed interest securities, £5M in index-linked securities, £34M in UK ordinary shares, £67M overseas and £10M in property.

The success of our long-term investment policy has recently been pinpointed in independent performance surveys, notably for unit-linked contracts and Managed Pension Funds.

FUNDS The ordinary long-term insurance funds, including unit-linked business and Managed Pension Fund business, now exceed £2,291M. The funds first exceeded £1,000M in 1978 and have thus more than doubled in only four years.

The total assets of the Group exceed £3,000M.

NEW PRODUCTS Throughout 1982 the design and planning of new products continued. Two new ordinary business contracts were introduced, the Balanced Investment Plan which is a single premium investment providing a balance between income and capital appreciation over a ten year period and the Privilege Extension Plan which allows policyholders to invest part of the proceeds of maturing policies in the Society's unit-linked investment funds on favourable terms and without loss of tax advantages.

We also revised our oldest unit-linked contract, the Investor Policy, introduced in 1966 and linked to the top performing Investor Policy Fund.

COMMISSION The Society stands firmly by the principle of control of the level of commission payments, preferably by industry-wide agreement.

Following the abandonment of the Commissions Agreement at the end of 1982 we have participated with several other leading offices in a new informal agreement. The main change to the pre-existing scale has been the introduction of differential commissions to registered insurance brokers and to full-time intermediaries thus recognising the greater expertise and commitment to the life market of these intermediaries and the higher costs incurred by brokers as a result of registration, a development which we feel should be encouraged.

SURRENDER VALUES The fall in interest rates has enabled the Society to improve its surrender values, in some cases by as much as 14%, thus illustrating our continuing intention to deal equitably with all our policyholders, including those who, for one reason or another, terminate their contracts prematurely.

SERVICE We are constantly aware of the need for speedy and accurate administration of all our business and the provision of adequate technical support for our agents.

New versatile Displaywriters have been installed at the Branches and a powerful additional computer has been installed at Head Office, the first of its kind to be installed anywhere in Scotland. Our continual aim is to optimise the service we provide while minimising our expenses.

The Society, along with other members of the Associated Scottish Life Offices, has become a member of the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau. This development will, we hope, give our policyholders even greater confidence of achieving satisfaction in the handling of complaints.

FUTURE OUTLOOK Although new business may be affected by the commissions problem we intend to maintain our position among the first rank of life assurance companies. We expect to continue our expansion, particularly in the unit-linked field, while for pensions business the emphasis will continue to be on service and investment expertise for Managed Funds and Group Schemes and on the competitiveness of our executive and self-employed pension plans. We have shown over the last few years that progress can be made even in difficult times given a skilled marketing team backed up by good product design and efficient service, and we are confident that this will continue to be the case.



SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Plan with our Assurance

If you would like a copy of the 1982 Report and Accounts, please write to Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, FREEPOST, Edinburgh EH16 0NE or telephone 031-655 6000.

STC's freedom from US starts expansion drive

Thousands of new jobs could be created if businessmen were alive to the opportunities which will arise from new technology, according to Sir Kenneth Corfield, chairman of Standard Telephones and Cables, the electrical group.

He is convinced that Britain is on the verge of a potentially enormous turnaround if companies take advantage of the opportunities which will arise from developing and managing new technology. "The tragedy is that many businessmen do not know where to look to create the new jobs," Sir Kenneth says. Freed from the shackles of its former American parent company, International Telephone and Telegraph, (ITT), which effectively relinquished control of STC after a share sale last autumn, Sir Kenneth is determined to make sure that STC does make the most of these opportunities. He sees his role as that of an "ideas man" and "motivator" who can spot those opportunities which can be best exploited by the STC group.

His first task was to embark on a huge restructuring of the STC group, by decentralising its operations into six main divisions. He puts the final touches to the reorganisation programme in September when the sixth division, STC Technology, is formally established. The new division will embrace ST Laboratories, and the group's new product development and factory automation systems businesses.

The other key groupings will centre around telecommunications, including defence; international communications; component distribution; business systems and International Aeradio, which was bought from British Airways for £60m last month.

Traditionally, STC has concentrated on developing and selling ITT technology in Britain while building up strong telecommunications and cable systems businesses of its own. However, in its centenary year STC is no longer faced with the constraints of being owned by a US parent. Now the aim is to expand rapidly as an international high technology company.

The furious pace of change envisaged by Sir Kenneth makes recent bullish forecasts by brokers look positively bearish. Analysts are



Corfield: man of ideas, spotter of opportunities

looking for pretax profits this year of about £90m against last year's £64.3m and £120m next year.

From what Sir Kenneth says the sky is almost the limit. STC's turnover from defence businesses alone is growing at the rate of 30 per cent a year. One contract for radiation proof optical fibres which could go to STC if a pilot study is successfully completed could be worth £300m to dwarf last year's £60m of defence sales across the group.

STC has also been quietly building its optical fibre manufacturing capacity so it is ready to take advantage of the anticipated boom in demand as Britain is recalled for the information technology revolution. "BICC talks about its new optical fibre facilities but it hasn't built them yet," Sir Kenneth says.

STC already has 25,000km of capacity and is building towards capacity of 50,000km a year even though demand is at present languishing in the region of 5,000km a year.

Sir Kenneth's lateral thinking also means that STC is now a front runner in another industry of the future, the manufacture of solid state laser systems. "We are as advanced as anybody in Europe in this field," he says.

The rapid growth generated internally will be complemented by a continuing programme of acquisition of high technology businesses which fit STC's ambitions. At present the group is poorly represented overseas where its interests were previously handled by ITT. STC was also obliged to refrain from competing directly with ITT

panies will have high technology divisions which could be of interest to STC, he suggests. All this means that the STC that Sir Kenneth hands over when he retires as chairman in five years will be vastly different from the organization he inherited when he joined the company from ITT in the early 1970s.

He has already begun the search for a successor as chief executive of the company and plans to relinquish those responsibilities in two years time if he can find the right person.

The priority when Sir Kenneth joined the company was to eliminate heavy losses particularly in its defence business. His draconian solution was to pull out of defence completely where STC was constantly over-running its costs and had weaker contacts at the Ministry of Defence than its rivals, partly because of STC's American parentage.

And despite the fact that STC had been in Britain since 1883 Sir Kenneth was to be dogged time and time again by the stigma of ITT's ownership when tendering for government contracts. The most recent example came when STC's rivals launched what he described as an "overt and covert" campaign against STC over the allocation of work for the System X advanced electronic telephone exchange. In the autumn of last year British Telecom decided to concentrate production of the exchange with GEC and Plessey.

Critics billed the decision as a blow to STC's fortunes, but Sir Kenneth counters by saying that the decision could be a blessing in disguise. Orders won from British Telecom for traditional TXE4A exchanges as compensation for the loss of the System X contract could be worth nearly £1,000m by the end of the decade if there are any further delays in introducing System X.

However, there will be opportunities for acquisition if Sir Kenneth's theory about a secondary wave of collapses in British industry is proved correct. He speaks with conviction - and as a director of Midland Bank - when he warns that a second wave of companies will collapse once the recession ends, not because of poor housekeeping, but because there is no demand for their products. Many of these com-

panies will be in the same mould - either strong in high technology or overseas representation and with a minimum turnover of £10m. "We are extremely unlikely to move into biotechnology in a big way but we will be in advanced electronics technology and software technology," he says.

But Sir Kenneth does not want to be seen as a stock market predator. "We want to be wanted," he explains. For this reason it is unlikely that STC will use its cash reserves which are replenished day by day from a crop of cash-generating businesses to launch an unwanted bid for a rival electronics company.

Andrew Cornelius

Economic notebook

'Protection' that spells disaster

There is more cant talked today about free trade than almost any other subject. Basically, we are all in favour of it, but we are all undermining it.

Take the news that American unions and congressmen are ganging up to prevent British Steel exporting slab steel from Ravenscraig to be finished in the United States. They want swinging new tariffs.

You can see their point. BSC's Mr Ian MacGregor has apparently found a way round last year's US/EEC steel quota agreements. But these were hashed up after the US threatened to impose prohibitive taxes on imports from European state enterprises on the somewhat ideological ground that any losses met by the state were subsidies.

It is right to condemn these American pressures, part of a general protectionist drive. But at least there is little compelling economic reason why there should be a regular trade exporting European crude steel across the Atlantic.

Back at home, the Severn-Trent Water Authority is planning to drain 6,000 acres of water meadows in Leicestershire at a cost of £66.4m of public money. If successful, it could raise wheat output by 5,000 tonnes a year. At the same time, President Reagan is paying American farmers large sums to keep good wheat land fallow to ease the American grain surplus. Yet, according to a recent Commonwealth Secretariat study, the EEC producers price of wheat has been averaging almost twice the American level. If it were not for hefty protection through the Common Agricultural Policy, we should be growing less wheat, not more. And our landscape and finances would probably be better for it.

Parliamentary critic Mr Richard Body rightly points out that EEC farm policies, not least on milk and butter, lead to some of the worst and most endemic instances of dumping in the world.

It is the same story with sugar. We have dramatically expanded a barely economic beet industry at the expense of poor tropical countries so that we can, with rare exceptions, pay more for sugar than we need. Regimes to steady agricultural prices and output are one thing. Outrageous protection is another.

The only real excuse is the strategic desire for self-sufficiency, which hardly sounds convincing for countries eager to tie themselves to cheap Russian gas supplies.

The economics of Japanese agriculture and protection are even more bizarre than ours. Naturally, leading Japanese industrialists are only too happy to sacrifice local orange growers to deflect threats from the US to their own export trade.

That might help the supposed imbalances in US/Japanese trade, but offers little possibilities for Europe. Indeed the idea that bilateral trade should be in balance is absurd in a complex world free trade system. Yet this is now the peg on which Europe hangs protection against Japan.

So-called voluntary agreements, whereby free enterprise countries use state deals or industry cartels to by-pass the market, already cover a long list of goods as well as cars. In the car trade itself, their main effect in Britain is to raise prices cut consumption and divert the import trade to other EEC countries.

The EEC has recently negotiated a whole new list with the Japanese government to limit imports of, among other things light commercial vehicles, advanced machine tools, fork-lift trucks, motor cycles and watches. The most notorious item was video recorders, where the Japanese were required to raise prices by £100 a time and reserve a share of the market for machines made in this country but these are included in the Japanese quota, so Britain is a party to protection against its own workers.

These things do no good. The multi-fibre agreement, set up in 1974 as a temporary measure to allow old textile industries to adjust, has simply turned into ever-tighter curbs, even reductions, on imports from developing Far East countries, and has left our own industry in a worse mess than before as a new queue of yet cheaper producers undermines Hong Kong and Korea.

We are gradually converting the world into trading blocks in particular building barriers against the Far East. So much for free trade.

Graham Searjeant

The New Throgmorton Trust PLC

The pro forma net asset value attributable to each new Capital Share to be issued under the terms of the reconstruction, based on the company's balance sheet as at 31.3.83, was 58p per Share.

Blagden Industries PLC

Year ended December 26th	1982	1981
Profit before taxation	£000's 1,743	£000's 2,006
Profit after taxation	1,479	1,220
Dividends per share	6.0p	6.0p
Earnings per share	12.5p	8.5p
Net assets per share	137p	132p

Prospects: Group turnover was a record £62.176 million and was 6% higher than that achieved in the previous year but profitability was affected by tighter margins. The balance sheet of the group remains strong with borrowings some £250,000 lower than they were at the end of the previous year and we continue to enjoy a low debt to equity ratio. Since early February there has been some upturn in demand accompanied by signs of an improvement in business confidence. If this trend continues we are strongly placed to take advantage of it and can expect to have a much more successful year.

A. R. Sparrow, Chairman.

Church

(Manufacturers and retailers of quality shoes)

Manufacturing in the UK contributed over £1 million in profits with exports at an all-time record

reports Ian B Church, Chairman

- Pre-tax profits increased by 19% to £1.85 million on sales up 10%. An increased final dividend makes a 9.5p total against 8.5p in 1981.
- USA, Belgium and France did well and Canada improved in the second half.
- 1983 has started well with a distinct improvement in retailing and the factories are busy. I expect increased profits provided retail trading continues to prosper.

Comparative results	1982	1981
Sales	£m 38.06	£m 35.8
Trading profit	2.63	2.26
Interest payable	0.776	0.705
Profit before tax	1.85	1.56
Earnings per share	22.7p	20.2p

Report and accounts will be posted to shareholders on 13th April 1983. Church & Co. PLC, St. James, Northampton NN5 5JB.



Appointments

1983 Volunteer Profile. All ages from 20 to 65-year-olds. Most in late twenties. Qualifications: You must be a Christian, City & Guilds, first and post-graduate degree, diploma...

CHIEF CHEMIST FOR BOPP FILM MANUFACTURING PLANT IN INDONESIA. Candidate should have master's degree in Polymer Chemistry with minimum 5 to 7 years experience in man made fibre industry/BOPP film producing plant...

WWF WORLD WILDLIFE FUND FUND-RAISING EXECUTIVE. WWF, the leading international conservation organisation, requires a Fund-Raising Executive at its head office in Surrey...

DAIRY TRADE FEDERATION Policy Issues - Graduate £2,500. The Dairy Trade Federation is concerned about tomorrow's issues on the buying of milk and its conversion into dairy products...

Senior Interviewer (Perm) 21+ £ excellent. We are a small private employment business in WCB and we seek a mature experienced person to join our team...

International Appointments are featured every THURSDAY for details please ring 01-278 9161/5

HORIZONS

Beware those itchy feet. A partner in a leading firm of headhunters recently pointed out that the peak period for job changes occurred between the ages of 35 and 45. "That's the time when a lot of executives get itchy feet," he said...

Schools and industry link up

Ever since James Callaghan's Ruskin speech there has been increased interest in forging links between education and the world of work. The TUC and CBI jointly promoted the Schools Council Industry Project...

Appointments

CIRCULATION MANAGER BUSINESS TRAVELLER MAGAZINE. Requires System Orientated Professional to build subscription sales in the UK and Continental Europe, and to develop an in-house computerised system...

GLC Working for London Ecologists. The Council's Transportation & Development Department has vacancies within its Ecological Planning Branch for a number of experienced ecologists to work in the following areas:

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT. Deputising for the Senior Ecologist and assisting in co-ordinating the work of the ecology section, particularly in relation to the formulation and monitoring of ecological policies and the management of casework and advisory services...

COMMUNITY LIAISON. Providing an ecological input to planning casework, advising the implications of proposed developments and assisting and liaising with voluntary groups on ecological matters...

DATA SYSTEMS. Reviewing existing sources of biological/environmental data and establishing close working links with biological record centres, voluntary organisations and national security agencies in order to develop and maintain an ecological data-base for London's strategic planning...

HABITAT MANAGEMENT. Providing scientific and technical advice on the creation and management of habitats, including ecological parks, local nature reserves, the enhanced use of natural deficit land and land rehabilitation, supervising research projects in this field...

Appointments

Chief Executive WELSH WATER AUTHORITY. The Authority covers nearly the whole of Wales plus parts of adjoining counties. Annual expenditure is around £150m and over 5,000 people are employed in this business...

HEAD OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES SECTION. The Section translates, or commissions from freelance translators, the translation of, more than 10 million words annually selected from the CO's output into a variety of foreign languages (mainly European)...

Assistant Inspector of Historic Buildings. To inspect and report on buildings of special architectural or historic interest, and make recommendations about their preservation and listing under the Town and Country Planning Act...

CJA RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS. Key board appointment with scope for further responsibilities. FINANCIAL DIRECTOR - MARINE INSURANCE. £35,000+ and car. MANAGERS OF LEADING INTERNATIONAL MARINE INSURANCE ORGANISATION...

Super Secretaries

ST PAULS, Admin/assistant (h/24) for public relations...

SECRETARY WITH INITIATIVE For a... with a minimum of 5 years experience...

VICTORIA PLANNING CONSULTANTS A young professional...

COLLEGE LEADER £1,500-4,000 per annum. Secretary for busy...

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST/PROPERTY MANAGER. Excellent opportunity...

SECRETARY REQUIRED by Manager of Travel Vic's Restaurant...

SALES AND ADMINISTRATION SECRETARY We require an adaptable...

SECRETARY REQUIRED by Manager of Travel Vic's Restaurant...

Part Time? Want to combine work with running your house?

PERSONALITY POSITION My previous chance for a...

TEMPERING TIMES BILINGUAL SEC. 2/3 day week...

COMPUTER SERVICES FREE PRINTER When you order Victor 9000/51...

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING CHEESE & WINE PARTY

PROPERTY SOUTH OF THE THAMES Five miles from the river...

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

THE PIANO WAREHOUSE, 102 New Bond Street, London W1...

FLORIAN'S, 11, Lamb Lane, London E1. New and second hand...

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS NANNY Preferably French and English...

COOK/PERSONAL FRIDAY wanted for Christmas...

WANTED: AIR FAIR for Christmas...

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

USA SUMMER HOME. Beachfront, 1000 sq ft, 3 bedrooms...

FINISH QUALITY wood carpet. 100% wool, 1200 sq ft...

OLD YORK FLATSTONES. 2 bed, 2 bath, 1000 sq ft...

PORTLAND ROAD. W11. Sunny, spacious, 3 bedrooms...

CLEVEDON ROAD. W11. Spacious, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths...

NORLAND SQUARE. W11. Light, airy, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths...

CHESTERTONS 01-221 3500

KEITH CARDALDO GROVES. 2 bed, 2 bath, 1000 sq ft...

WILKES ST. W11. 2 bed, 2 bath, 1000 sq ft...

GEORGE KNIGHT & PARTNERS WANTED URGENTLY

Tenant and Hamilton Estates Central London

RESIDENTIAL. 10th Avenue, London W11. 2 bed, 2 bath...

CENTRAL LONDON. Modern flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths...

LOVELY SLEIGHED flat. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1000 sq ft...

FISHERMAN'S COTTAGE. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1000 sq ft...

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS THE GARMENT of St James's

BARONS COURT. W14. 2 bed, 2 bath, 1000 sq ft...

HARVESTED HEATH. Delightful cottage, 2 bedrooms...

QUEENSGATE SW7. Small studio flat, 1 bedroom...

KENSINGTON W14. 4 bed, 2 bath, 1000 sq ft...

DORSET HOUSE. Dorset Square, 2 bedrooms...

WINDMILL COURT. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1000 sq ft...

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

FALCON GREEK BARGAIN SUN HOLIDAYS APRIL - MAY - JUNE

EUROPEAN FLIGHTS. Special charter, 10 days, 12 nights...

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MEMORIAL SERVICES

ALABASTER. On 11th April at Crayke Hospital...

BROCK. On 4th April at Queen Mary's Hospital...

COOPER. On 4th April at Rosemary and David at St. Martin's...

COMBS. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

EVITT. On 4th April at West London Hospital...

JACKSON. On 4th April at St. Francis and Charles...

KEYSER. On 4th April at St. Peter's Church...

MARRALL. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

PERROWE. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

RINTON. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

ALLEN. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

ASA THOMAS. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

BADHAM. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

BRADLEY. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

CALVERT. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

DEBART. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

GRIGG. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

HAMILTON. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

GRIFFITHS. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

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DEATHS

ALLEN. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

ASA THOMAS. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

BADHAM. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

BRADLEY. On 4th April at St. George's Hospital...

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Lee

BBC 1
00 Ceeba AM News, sport, weather and travel in a daily promotion for telecast.
30 Breakfast Time. Frank Bough and Nick Ross this morning with news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; Regular news at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; Keep fit at 6.45 approx; 9.00 Close-down.

tv-am
6.00 Daybreak presented by Gavin Scott followed by Good Morning Britain at 6.30 presented by Anna Ford and Nick Owen. Items include News and weather at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, and 8.30; News at 6.50; Guest celebrity at 8.25; Style by Jerry at 8.50; Baby Talk at 9.05; Closedown at 9.15.
12.00 Sesame Street. The Muppets came from here 10.30 Science International. With Michael...

CHURRICANE (BBC 2, 9.40pm)
legendary among cognoscenti of the screen. But sports writer Hugh McIlvanney's entraining parakeet reveals, too, the little-known modesty of snooker's stormy hero. It seems that on his way across the Rubicon of the Irish Sea, Alex Higgins decided to call himself "Hurricane" rather than his other name, Alexander the Great. To his teachers, though, he will always be Sandy, the reluctant schoolboy who preferred to spend his days in Belfast snooker halls like the Jampot. This anecdotal profile, intentionally intoned, is mock-heraldic, charts his subject's spectacular progress from the Jampot, via two minor exhibitions in such illustrious venues as the Ambulance Drill Hall, Acconington, to the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, where he chased round the table with feinting determination to regain his World title last year. This film also shows Higgins at his most devoted as father and spouse. Yet...

CHOICE
despite the mountain of scandalous outtings about him, he says little to McIlvanney, allowing a former great of the game, John Pulman, to have the best line: "There's a little of Jekyll and Hyde in Alex. Unfortunately, it's 75 per cent Hyde."

There's little of Mellors about George Furse, THE GAMEKEEPER (Channel 4, 9.30pm) created back in 1980 by writer Barry Hines, director Ken Loach and actor Phil Asham, in this notable chronicle of country life and class differences filmed in documentary style on a dual estate somewhere in the north of England. Nottingham. George lives and loves the dilemma of the tied labourer, enjoying the nature of his job, breeding pheasants, stalking poachers, hunting wild rabbits, yet repaid shabbily for his devotion to his absentee lord and master. George's ultimate tragedy is that he doesn't see the ironies of his situation, though Hines and Loach ensure that we do. For the first part, though, the film is a gentle evocation of rural life, photographed realistically by Chris Menges and Charles Stewart and recorded to great effect by Andrew Ecclestone with the twitter of birds, the rife crack of boot on dry twigs and the agile click of hobbins on flag-stones.

Shipping Forecast, Inshore Forecast.
VHF: As above except 6.35-6.55am Weather; Travel, 6.55-7.00am; News, 7.00-7.15am; Music, 7.15-7.30am; 7.30-7.45am; 7.45-8.00am; 8.00-8.15am; 8.15-8.30am; 8.30-8.45am; 8.45-9.00am; 9.00-9.15am; 9.15-9.30am; 9.30-9.45am; 9.45-10.00am; 10.00-10.15am; 10.15-10.30am; 10.30-10.45am; 10.45-11.00am; 11.00-11.15am; 11.15-11.30am; 11.30-11.45am; 11.45-12.00am; 12.00-12.15am; 12.15-12.30am; 12.30-12.45am; 12.45-1.00am; 1.00-1.15am; 1.15-1.30am; 1.30-1.45am; 1.45-2.00am; 2.00-2.15am; 2.15-2.30am; 2.30-2.45am; 2.45-3.00am; 3.00-3.15am; 3.15-3.30am; 3.30-3.45am; 3.45-4.00am; 4.00-4.15am; 4.15-4.30am; 4.30-4.45am; 4.45-5.00am; 5.00-5.15am; 5.15-5.30am; 5.30-5.45am; 5.45-6.00am; 6.00-6.15am; 6.15-6.30am; 6.30-6.45am; 6.45-7.00am; 7.00-7.15am; 7.15-7.30am; 7.30-7.45am; 7.45-8.00am; 8.00-8.15am; 8.15-8.30am; 8.30-8.45am; 8.45-9.00am; 9.00-9.15am; 9.15-9.30am; 9.30-9.45am; 9.45-10.00am; 10.00-10.15am; 10.15-10.30am; 10.30-10.45am; 10.45-11.00am; 11.00-11.15am; 11.15-11.30am; 11.30-11.45am; 11.45-12.00am; 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Doubts over fate of Galtieri

From Andrew Thompson Buenos Aires

Amid conflicting reports and rumours, General Leopoldo Galtieri, former President of Argentina, was taken from his home in a residential district of Buenos Aires on Tuesday night to an undisclosed military unit, where he will be a period of disciplinary arrest.

Journalists who had spent all day outside said that the general left at 21.30 pm local time in a private car escorted by three Army vehicles. Rumours that he would resist arrest proved to be unfounded.

Central to the charges against General Galtieri are statements he made in an interview published by the Buenos Aires newspaper Clarin on April 2. He was highly critical of General Mario Menéndez, whom he had appointed military governor of the Falklands.

In another passage, General Galtieri, blaming his junta colleagues and Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez his Foreign Minister, for Argentina's failure to take the last chance of a negotiated settlement.

"At a junta meeting, and after asking them not to hit me for what I was going to say, because they knew I was a bit imaginative and impulsive, I proposed a draft statement to be sent to the United Nations. It said roughly that Argentina would withdraw the fleet and promising to negotiate."

"All those present - Costa Méndez and Admiral Suárez del Cerro were there as well - said there was no domestic political space for such a move.



Flood waters in Cologne leave a landing stage along the Rhine quay marooned.

Flood brings chaos to German cities

Bonn (Reuter) - The cities of Bonn, Cologne and Koblenz were awash, yesterday as thousands of West German firemen, troops and volunteers fought flood waters from the overflowing Rhine.

In northern France, 12 people were reported to have died in four days of flooding, according to French radio. The French Interior Ministry said it was aware of only three dead and three missing, although this was not a final figure.

River levels were falling yesterday after heavy rain abated. In West German, the Rhine, swollen by several days of torrential rain, reached its highest level since 1970, swamping the old city centre of Cologne and several low-lying

areas of Bonn. Officials expected the Rhine to reach its highest level last night and then start to recede.

Flood water was pumped from the vaults of the Bonn-Tag building in Bonn and the Speaker's private entrance could be reached only by boat, a Parliament spokesman said.

Several embassies, including those of Turkey and Yugoslavia, were under water in the diplomatic suburb of Bad Godesberg and guests at a luxury riverside hotel were evacuated by boat. Makeshift floodgates were set up around the sprawling American Embassy complex in Bad Godesberg.

The medieval streets between Cologne's Gothic cathedral and

the Rhine were under 3ft of water and many residents took refuge on the first floor of their houses.

Emergency teams battled all night to stem the floods, but pumping was suspended in some parts of Cologne yesterday because of fears that historic buildings might collapse, officials said.

The floods caused widespread disruption to public transport and road traffic chaos throughout the Rhineland. Barge traffic on the Rhine, West Europe's busiest inland waterway, has been suspended until next week at the earliest.

Flooding was also severe in Koblenz and stranded campers were rescued by boat from riverside sites near the town of

Andernach. Some caravans were swept away.

The city of Trier, on the river Moselle, has declared a state of emergency.

Agriculture Ministry officials said the floods would delay planting of sugar beet, but should not harm the scenic terraced vineyards in the Rhine and Moselle valleys.

In Luxembourg, roads along the Moselle remained closed but water started to recede in the worst flooding experienced by the Grand Duchy since 1947, officials said.

In many towns and villages along the "wine road" that follows the river, people moved to the first floors of their houses as basements and ground floors were under water.

Heseltine rejects dual-key for cruise

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, impressed Conservative backbenchers last night with a stout defence of the joint decision-making arrangements between Britain and the United States for the firing of cruise missiles stationed on British soil.

Addressing a joint meeting of the Conservative backbench defence and foreign affairs committees in the Commons, Mr Heseltine apparently succeeded in dispelling any lasting impression that the Government might be thinking of asking the Americans for a dual-key system of control, as some of his backbenchers wish.

He spoke with satisfaction of the way the existing joint decision arrangement has worked since it was instituted in 1951 by Mr Clement Attlee and President Truman. He said it would be illogical to have a dual-key system for cruise missiles, and not to have one for the Poseidon submarines and the F111 bombers.

He added that to introduce the system would be costly, delay the installation of the missiles, and worst of all, be bad for relations between the two countries, damaging the atmosphere of mutual trust.

MPs said later that Mr Heseltine's presentation had been highly effective. "If only he had half an hour on television to do that," one said, "it does not mean that his difficulties, with some backbenchers are over."

Few of the dual key proponents spoke at last night's meeting, and many of them were absent, but they are hoping to press the issue to a vote when the Commons debates disarmament, probably the week after next.

About 40 Conservative MPs from a wide cross-section of the party last month backed a motion from Mr Alan Clark, MP for Plymouth, Sutton, calling for the introduction of a "mechanism for sovereign physical control." It was withdrawn because of fears that it might embarrass the party.

But Mr Clark hopes to table an amendment along the same lines for the debate. He told The Times yesterday: "A lot of members have often repeated and whatever form they may take, are useless."

What we are talking about is an acute crisis. At that time overriding national interests are the sole criteria."

Sierra campaign kills hopes for end to price war

Continued from page 1

taxation offices could not cope and a reported 4,000 sales had to be carried over to April.

The incentives continue this month with the exception of those paid to fleet buyers, who are said to have received a £200 rebate for each Sierra bought in March.

Mr Sam Toy, Ford of Britain's chairman, has said that support for Sierra was necessary because of the "dirty tricks" of the "whispering campaign" being waged by rivals.

With the British market heading for record sales this year of over 1,720,000 cars, manufacturers were hoping that after two years in the doldrums

they would be able to phase out the widespread discounting which has led to the most bitterly contested cut-price battle for many years.

They complain that Ford's massive intervention has disrupted the entire market. "Ford reacted angrily last night to this claim," a spokesman said. "We have not spent anything like the sums they are

talking about. We are not prepared to say how much because we do not divulge our marketing expenditure.

"Whatever we do we still do within the limits of making a profit and it is not true of any of them. Whatever the 10-day figures show, we are still confident that Sierra will be a Number One at the end of the month." Bishops' plea, page 2

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend a Service of the Royal Victoria Order in St George's Chapel, Windsor, 11. Both a reception in St George's Hall, Windsor, for those attending the Service.

The Duke of Kent carries out engagements in Dorset: visits Wellesbourne Foundation, 3.40; and Dartford YMCA, 4.50; as Patron of the Kent Opera, attends a performance of Don Giovanni, The Orchard, Dartford, 6.50.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,103. A grid for a crossword puzzle with numbers 1 through 27 indicating starting positions for words.

- ACROSS: 1 One religious system in an undefiled setting indulged in by Holmes (10). 2 To put up a record on ice, buy this and skate (6). 3 About a manipulator in the commodities market (8).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

Whitworth Art Gallery, Whitworth Park, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 9, closed Sun (until May 7).

Alive To It All: works by 13 artists, including Kiki, Miro and Roger Hilton, Ferees Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, 11th Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 4.30, (until April 24).

Work by three Canadian sculptors, Museum and Art Gallery, Cartwright Hall, Bradford; Tues to Sun 10 to 5, closed Mon; (until May 8).

Music: Concert by the Halle Orchestra, Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, Manchester, 7.30.

Walks: Royal London, meet Westminster Underground, 11 am. Chelsea, meet Sloane Square Underground, 2.30 pm.

New books - paperback: A selection of interesting books published this week: Abstracts of the Arts and Crafts Movement, by Margaret Richardson (Tavist, 25.95).

Anniversaries: Birth: Abraham Ortelius, cartographer, Antwerp, 1527; Christian Huygens, mathematician and astronomer, The Hague, 1629.

Parliament today: Commons (2.30): Finance Bill, second reading. Lords (3): British Shipbuilders Bill report. Debate on EEC committee report on borrowing and lending.

The pound: Table showing exchange rates for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, and Yugoslavia.

The papers: The Daily Mirror awards Oscar to various politicians in a light-hearted leader this morning: "Our Oscar for the Best Newcomer goes to David Steel for the seventeenth successive year."

Roads: London and South-east: A308: Major roadworks on Sunbury Road, Hampton, Middlesex: avoid Hampton Court area. A3216: Chelsea Bridge: only one lane in use.

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Weather forecast

A westerly airstream will persist, with a weak trough of low pressure clearing S.

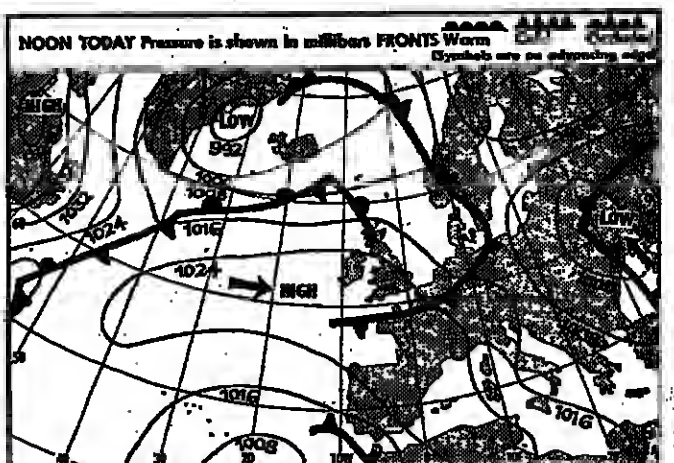
6 am to midnight: London, SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands: Becoming dry and brighter after a rather cloudy start; wind variable, light; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).

East Angles, Midlands, E, NW, central N, NE, England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Northern Ireland: Mostly dry with some scattered showers; light to moderate; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind W veering NW, moderate or fresh, locally strong at night in Dover Straits; sea slight or moderate. S: Wind W, moderate or fresh; sea slight or moderate.

Lighting-up time: London: 8.25 pm to 8.55 pm. Bristol: 8.30 pm to 9.00 pm. Manchester: 8.25 pm to 8.41 pm. Perthshire: 8.44 pm to 8.50 pm.

Highest and lowest: Highest day temp: London 19C (66F); lowest night temp: Cape Wrath 7C (45F); highest night temp: London 10.8C (51.4F).



High tides: Table listing high tide times for various locations including London Bridge, Aberdeen, Avonmouth, Bournemouth, Cardiff, Devonport, Exeter, Falmouth, Glasgow, Harwich, Liverpool, Lowestoft, London, Lough Erne, Newcastle, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Swansea, and Wexford.

Around Britain: Table showing weather conditions (Sun, Rain, Mist) for various locations across the British Isles including St Andrews, Aberdeen, Avonmouth, Bournemouth, Cardiff, Devonport, Exeter, Falmouth, Glasgow, Harwich, Liverpool, Lowestoft, London, Lough Erne, Newcastle, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Swansea, and Wexford.

Abroad: Table showing weather conditions (Sun, Rain, Mist) for various international locations including Alicante, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Athens, Barcelona, Berlin, Birmingham, Bologna, Bordeaux, Brussels, Bucharest, Budapest, Cardiff, Copenhagen, Dublin, Edinburgh, Frankfurt, Geneva, Hamburg, Harrogate, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Jersey, London, Lyons, Madrid, Manchester, Milan, Moscow, Newcastle, Nice, Oslo, Oxford, Paris, Rome, Sheffield, Stockholm, Swansea, Telford, Toronto, Vienna, Wrexham, Zurich.